

# UNION COLLEGE

FOUNDED 1795



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR TIME

A decade in review





"Stephen Ainlay was the first candidate I met. I spent time with him in his office and was fascinated with the breadth of his knowledge. When we walked around campus, Stephen seemed to know personally everyone we passed and had a special word for each one—it took us nearly 20 minutes for what should have been a 5-minute stroll! After our meeting, my wife asked, 'How did it go?' I quickly replied, 'I think I just met our new president.'"



Steven J. Ciesinski '70  
*Chairman of the Board  
of Trustees, 2002-2007*

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## MESSAGE FROM

### **PRESIDENT STEPHEN C. AINLAY, Ph.D.**

**M**y tenth anniversary as President of Union College prompted me to reflect on our combined efforts to strengthen Union. I marvel at what we have accomplished together in the last decade.

We've completed two Strategic Plans that, instead of being "put on the shelf," have actually guided our work. We've made significant progress in our efforts to become more sustainable, reducing our carbon footprint and moving us along our path to carbon neutrality.

We've diversified our campus community and our community has also become far more global. In fact, we are now the most diverse in our history. We established Multi-cultural Affairs and Title IX offices to make Union a more inclusive and safer place.

We've dramatically increased the volunteer hours we provide in the city and thereby increased our presence and our impact. We've enhanced academic integrity with a College Honor Code and continued a long-standing commitment to recruiting outstanding faculty.

We've steadily grown our applicant pool to what was the largest ever this past year, resulting in the most selective admissions process in our history. We nearly doubled the size of our Annual Fund—a direct subsidy to the actual costs of educating our students.

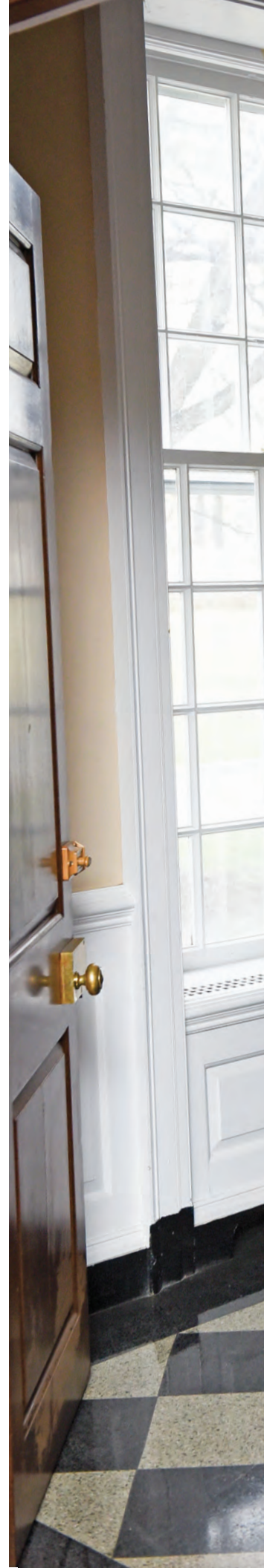
With help from our many generous friends, we completed the largest campaign in Union's history and

one of the largest for any liberal arts college, raising \$258 million. That campaign enabled us to strengthen our facilities, and we have built or renovated 14 major structures.

Much work lies ahead as we secure Union's place as a leading institution with liberal arts and engineering. We have begun work near the Science and Engineering complex to prepare for extensive improvements we hope to make. Time has taken a toll on building systems, and teaching and research in the sciences and engineering have changed. An excellent faculty and sophisticated instrumentation have made up for deficiencies in the space, but the time has come to address this important need in order to further strengthen our appeal to prospective students and faculty.

Union has made a difference to generations of students, and we will continue to be the choice of outstanding young men and women who understand the value of what only Union can offer: a deep and broad education that integrates and redefines fields of learning. This is our value to higher education and to the nation. It is what makes us special.

A decade ago, when I arrived at Union, I noted the rewards that come from being a part of something larger than ourselves. What we have achieved together has been rewarding indeed. But those achievements are something more: they provide a clear vision of a promising future for Union College.





"We will need to draw on [Union's] ethos of innovation and instill it in our students as we try to meet the demand for individuals who are capable of imagining solutions well outside prescribed ways of thinking. But be assured of one thing: Union is indeed well-hewn to make a difference in our time."

— Stephen C. Ainlay, Inaugural Address, September 16, 2006

# Through the years



President Ainlay was among the first group inducted to the College's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society. Students cited Ainlay as "the kind of college president who knows his students. He is often seen cheering them on at hockey games, applauding them at their dance recitals, and supporting them in their academic pursuits. He's the kind of guy who will stop and ask how you're doing ... He remembers our names, advocates for our interests, and genuinely cares about our well-being."



*President Ainlay, a professor of sociology, has been a frequent guest speaker in classes, including a course on one of his favorite topics—the history of Union College.*



*Above left, President Ainlay with Alan Horn '64 at Commencement, 2010.*

*Left, President Ainlay at the Campaign Celebration in 2012.*

*Below, President and Mrs. Ainlay enjoy the inaugural Feigenbaum Forum on Innovation and Creativity.*





*Above, President Ainlay at 25th anniversary of Steinmetz Symposium*

*Above right, at his inauguration in 2006.*

*Right, President and Mrs. Ainlay and senior staff don aprons to prepare a late-night pancake break for students in the midst of final exams.*

*Bottom right, Mrs. Ainlay, Maya Lin and President Ainlay at the second annual Feigenbaum Forum on Innovation and Creativity*



*Above, President Ainlay with students on the Civil Rights Mini-Term*

*President Ainlay took to the airwaves of WRUC in 2010 for a radio show that featured music produced by his brother, Chuck, a renowned and Grammy-winning Nashville music engineer.*



# 10 years in review



2006

- Stephen C. Ainlay inaugurated as 18th president of Union College
- **Union welcomes first class of Posse scholars**
- Gretchel Hathaway named chief diversity officer



2007

- **Taylor Music Center dedicated; Union is an "all Steinway" school**
- Strategic Plan implemented
- Butterfield Hall renovated for Bioengineering and Neuroscience
- President Stephen C. Ainlay among first to sign the Carbon Commitment, pledging to reduce and eliminate carbon footprint
- College adds director of Greek life position



2008

- Breazzano Fitness Center dedicated
- Mellon Foundation grant supports faculty appointments in Anthropology, English and Philosophy
- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life established
- Presidential Green Grants launched
- College hosts inaugural symposium on Engineering and Liberal Education
- **College launches Minerva Fellowships to aid developing countries through social entrepreneurship**



2009

- **Founders Day celebrates Moses Viney and role in abolition**
- Stephen J. Schmidt receives inaugural Byron A. Nichols Endowed Fellowship for Faculty Development
- First Minerva Fellows return to share their global humanitarian adventures
- Construction begins on Peter I. Wold Center for Science and Engineering
- Civil Rights History mini-term launched



2010

- Union named to President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
- Founders Day features Deborah Bial, founder of Posse
- Union named among nation's greenest colleges by *Princeton Review*
- First class of Posse scholars graduates
- Neuroscience receives \$900,000 NSF grant



2011

- Peter I. Wold Center dedicated
- IBM donates Intelligent Cluster, creating one of strongest undergrad computer capabilities in nation
- Lippman Hall dedicated as new home for Economics, History, Political Science and Sociology
- **Students pitch in for John Calvin Toll Day**



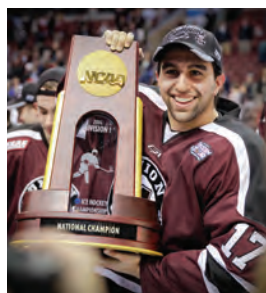
2012

- Center for Neuroscience and the Valerie J. Hoffman '75 Women and Gender Studies Suite are dedicated
- **"You Are Union" campaign surpasses \$250 M goal**
- Campus rallies to aid victims of Hurricane Sandy
- Renovated Lamont House dedicated as new home of Anthropology, Classics, Philosophy and Religious Studies
- College implements new Honor Code, a commitment to academic rigor and integrity



2013

- College commemorates bicentennial of Joseph Ramée's campus plan
- Founders Day celebrates legacy of William H. Seward, Class of 1820
- Civil Rights icon John Lewis tells grads to "get in the way"
- Peter I. Wold Center earns LEED Gold Status for sustainable design
- **First of four consecutive HEED awards cite College for diversity initiatives**
- Revised Strategic Plan aims at producing grads who "make important contributions to humanity"
- Kelly Adirondack Center dedicated at former home of Adirondack conservationist Paul Schaefer
- Wicker Wellness Center dedicated



2014

- At Founder's Day, Dr. Alfred Sommer '63 emphasizes role of education in public health
- Amy Loya '14 named to national Good Works Team for community service
- **Men's ice hockey wins NCAA championship**
- Kelly Adirondack Center celebrates 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act
- Union joins "It's on Us" campaign against sexual assault
- Presidential Leadership Grant from Mellon Foundation supports interdisciplinary faculty development



2015

- College opens "Profound and Poignant" exhibit on Union's connections to Civil War
- At Founder's Day, Laura Skandera Trombley celebrates the power of the humanities
- \$11 million gift from Feigenbaum Foundation supports renovation of Visual Arts, endows Feigenbaum Forum on Innovation and Creativity
- Union hosts state conference of African American Studies Association
- **Psychology pioneer Howard Gardner is inaugural speaker in Feigenbaum Forum**
- Student awards include two Watson Fellowships, seven Gilman International Scholarships, two Davis Project for Peace Awards and five Fulbright teaching grants



2016

- At Liberals Art and Engineering symposium, Freeman Hrabowski III speaks on integrating disciplines
- Melissa Kelley joins College as Title IX coordinator
- Activist and scholar Cornel West speaks on social justice
- Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker delivers Commencement address
- In sustainability initiative, College adds electric vehicle charging stations
- Class of 2020 selected from a record 6,647 applications; class is one of most diverse and strongest academically
- **Artist and designer Maya Lin is speaker at second Feigenbaum Forum**



At orientation, first-year students serenade the Ainlays with "Ode to Old Union"



Judith Gardner Ainlay

## Team Union: It takes two

The Presidency of Union College is very much a team effort.

Judith Gardner Ainlay, director of Special Institutional Relations at Union, is a familiar figure at plays, games, lectures and concerts. She and the Ainlays' springer spaniel,

Winston (who gets his own annual invitation to a pizza event in the Minerva Houses), often greet tour groups on their daily walks across campus. Since coming to Union, Mrs. Ainlay has worked tirelessly to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere at the President's House. She has opened the doors of her home to thousands of students, faculty, community members, alumni, speakers and College guests. She has also devoted herself to the restoration, maintenance and protection of this historic home and campus treasure.

Together, the Ainlays have visited many alumni clubs across the country, sharing news of the College and emphasizing lifelong membership in the Union community.

Mrs. Ainlay has also ensured Union's presence in the local community. She serves as a member of the board of directors of Proctors Theater, one of the region's cultural landmarks. She also serves on the board of directors of the Heritage Home for Women (founded by Eliphalet Nott's wife, Urania) and the auxiliary board of the Boys and

Girls Club of Schenectady.

Prior to joining Union, Mrs. Ainlay worked in non-profit and academic administration in the field of aging. She oversaw a consortium program of five colleges and 150 students, and served as the managing editor of the *Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics Education*.

Recognizing that it "takes two," the Board of Trustees endowed a \$1 million scholarship to honor the Ainlays after the success of the College's "You Are Union" campaign, which raised \$258 million. "It is impossible to complete a campaign of this size without the efforts of a great many people," said Mark Walsh '76, chair of the trustees and campaign co-chair. "However, it is clear to anyone who has been involved with the campaign that the single greatest factor in its successful completion has been the tireless efforts of Stephen and Judith to lead Union and to secure major gifts for the campaign."

The Ainlays have two sons, Jesse and Jonathan; a daughter-in-law, Jaclyne, and two grandsons, Charlie and Teddy.



At Commencement 2016, the Ainlays welcomed Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker and his wife, Lauren.

# A COLLEGE, A PLAN

Any organization, particularly a college, can thrive only when its members are guided by a plan that clearly articulates its mission, its core values, its strengths and the collective vision that moves it forward.

Under President Ainlay's direction, Union developed a Strategic Plan in 2007 and revised it in 2013. Highlights for the plan can be viewed through three essential components of a Union education: the ability to think, connect and act.

## **FOUNDATIONS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN:**

- Academic quality
- The learning environment
- Sustainable stewardship of resources

## **DIFFERENTIATORS:**

- An academic village that reflects the diversity of the world
- Integrative thought and action for the 21st century
- A distinctive past connected to an innovative and creative future

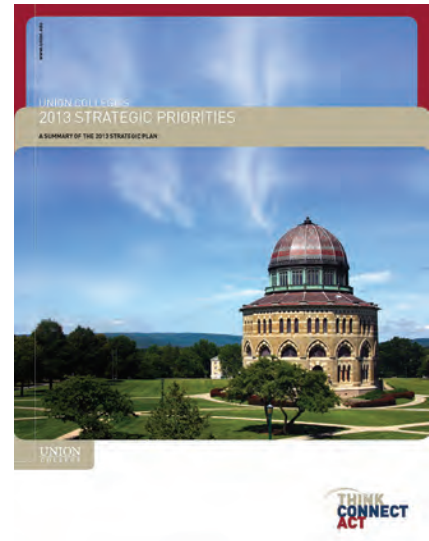
## **UNION COLLEGE**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Union College, founded in 1795, is a scholarly community dedicated to shaping the future and to understanding the past. Faculty, staff, and administrators welcome diverse and talented students into our community, work closely with them to provide a broad and deep education, and guide them in finding and cultivating their passions. We do this with a wide range of disciplines and interdisciplinary programs in the liberal arts and engineering, as well as academic, athletic, cultural, and social activities, including opportunities to study abroad and to participate in undergraduate research and community service. We develop in our students the analytic and reflective abilities needed to become engaged, innovative, and ethical contributors to an increasingly diverse, global, and technologically complex society.

*Adopted by the Faculty on  
May 23, 2008.*

*Approved by the Board of Trustees  
on May 31, 2008.*



# STRENGTHENING ACADEMICS



## ACADEMICS

- Trimester system (three 10-week terms) with extended winter break
- Average introductory class size: 21; upper level class size: 14
- A wealth of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental programs and majors
- Nearly 60% of all students have an international experience
- Accelerated programs (students earn two or more degrees) include Leadership in Medicine and 3+3 Accelerated Law Program

## Undergraduate research: asking “why?” and “how?”



*John E. Kelly III '76, chair of the board and senior vice president at IBM, gives keynote at 25th anniversary of Steinmetz Symposium*

Long committed to undergraduate research, Union encourages its students to ask “why” and “how” by fostering close working relationships with faculty. In every academic department, students regularly work one-on-one with professors to develop a critical understanding of their field and gain confidence by asking the right questions and

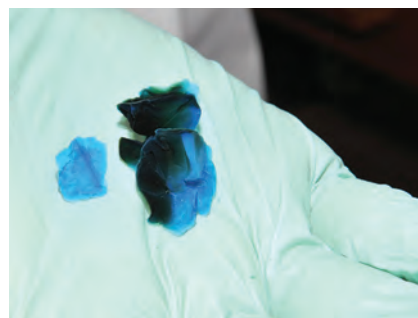
solving difficult problems. Many students are co-authors of publications and deliver conference papers. Union students also have access to some of the instrumentation and tools that are available only at major graduate institutions.

Every spring, more than 500 Union students showcase their scholarly and creative work at the popular Steinmetz Symposium. In 2015, John E. Kelly III '76, chair of the board and senior vice president at IBM, gave a keynote address at the 25th anniversary celebration of Steinmetz Symposium. This all-campus event is named for former electrical engineering and applied physics professor Charles Proteus Steinmetz (1865-1923), widely regarded as America's leading electrical engineer of that era. Classes are suspended for the day as students, faculty, staff and parents attend student presentations and performances all over campus.

Other opportunities include the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, funding for research and conference travel, summer undergraduate research and IBM summer internships.

### **NEW HONOR CODE: A COMMITMENT TO INTEGRITY OF LEARNING PROCESS**

After years of work by dedicated students, faculty and administrators, Union in 2012 implemented its new Honor Code. The Honor Council—34 students and four faculty—educates the Union community on the importance of academic integrity and honorability. Every class at Union reminds students of the Honor Code in class lectures, syllabi, and assignment handouts. President Ainlay called the honor code “a powerful statement about our commitment to the seriousness and integrity of the learning process.”



### **Aerogel Lab joins disciplines**

The Aerogel Lab is a collaboration of disciplines in which students and faculty are researching ways to make the production of the ultra-light matrix materials more cost effective. Under the direction of Mary Carroll of Chemistry and Ann Anderson of Mechanical Engineering, Union has received a series of grants from the National Science Foundation and patents. Aerogels, often called “frozen smoke,” have myriad applications ranging from insulators to chemical sensors.

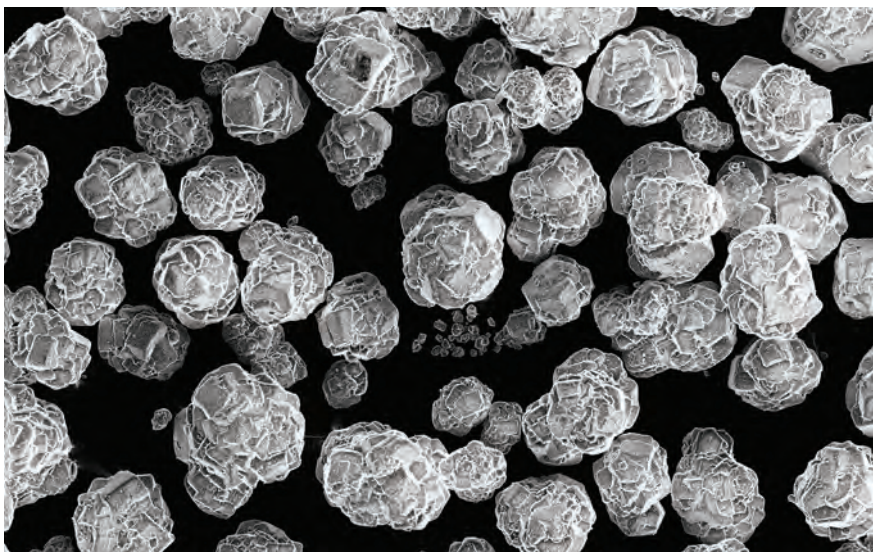


## Center for Neuroscience studies brain and behavior

In 2012, the College dedicated the Center for Neuroscience on the third floor of Butterfield Hall. Made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation and the Frank Bailey Fund, the center supports research and training in areas of neuroplasticity; human cognitive abilities and behavioral dispositions; sex differences in spatial cognition; cognitive genetics; neural control of behavior; and basic molecular mechanisms underlying pediatric neurological disorders. The center includes five research laboratories, several support and research training areas and a space for faculty.

## Nano, a small world, with big possibilities

Nanotechnology—the fabrication of materials at the scale of billionths of a meter—is usually available only to graduate students at major research institutions with state-of-the-art instrumentation. But it is well suited as a program at Union. In the decade since the College launched into nanotechnology, faculty and students have discovered that departments do not matter. Biology. Chemistry. Physics. Mechanical Engineering. Electrical and Computer Engineering. They all blend together in the small world of nano, a nexus for those who study the very fundamental parts of things.

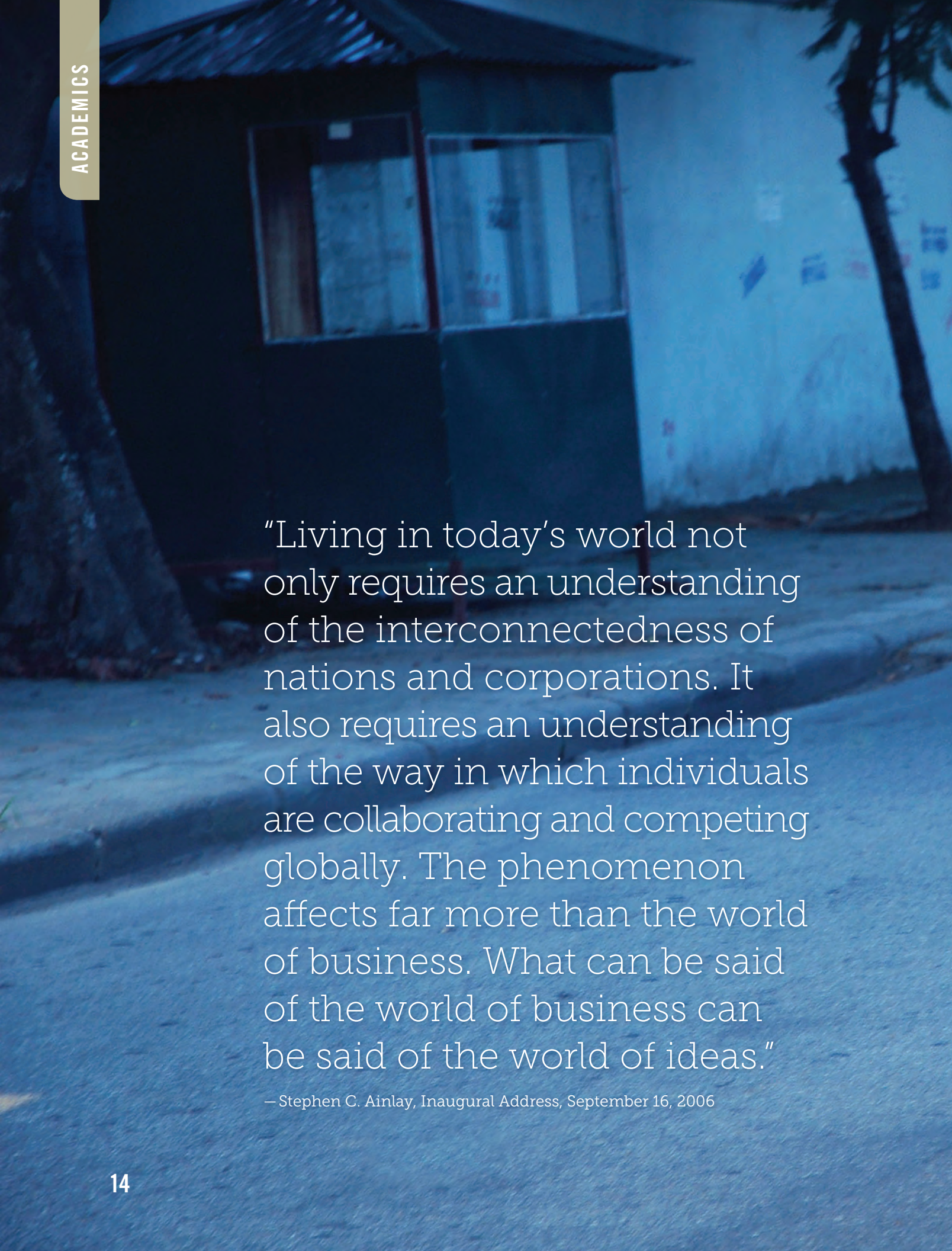


*Gel sorbent particles with pore radii as small as 100 nanometers used in chromatography and as dessicants. Image acquired by Josh Hernandez '10 and Pam April '10, who were mentored by Prof. Samuel Amanuel of physics.*



## **Integrating arts and humanities across disciplines**

As an outgrowth of undergraduate research and classes in the digital arts, Union has created a “maker community” which, through 3D printers (above) and other tools, brings technology to students in the arts and humanities. The program is part of “Our Shared Humanities,” an initiative supported by a three-year \$800,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to promote the integration of the arts and humanities across academic disciplines.



"Living in today's world not only requires an understanding of the interconnectedness of nations and corporations. It also requires an understanding of the way in which individuals are collaborating and competing globally. The phenomenon affects far more than the world of business. What can be said of the world of business can be said of the world of ideas."

— Stephen C. Ainlay, Inaugural Address, September 16, 2006



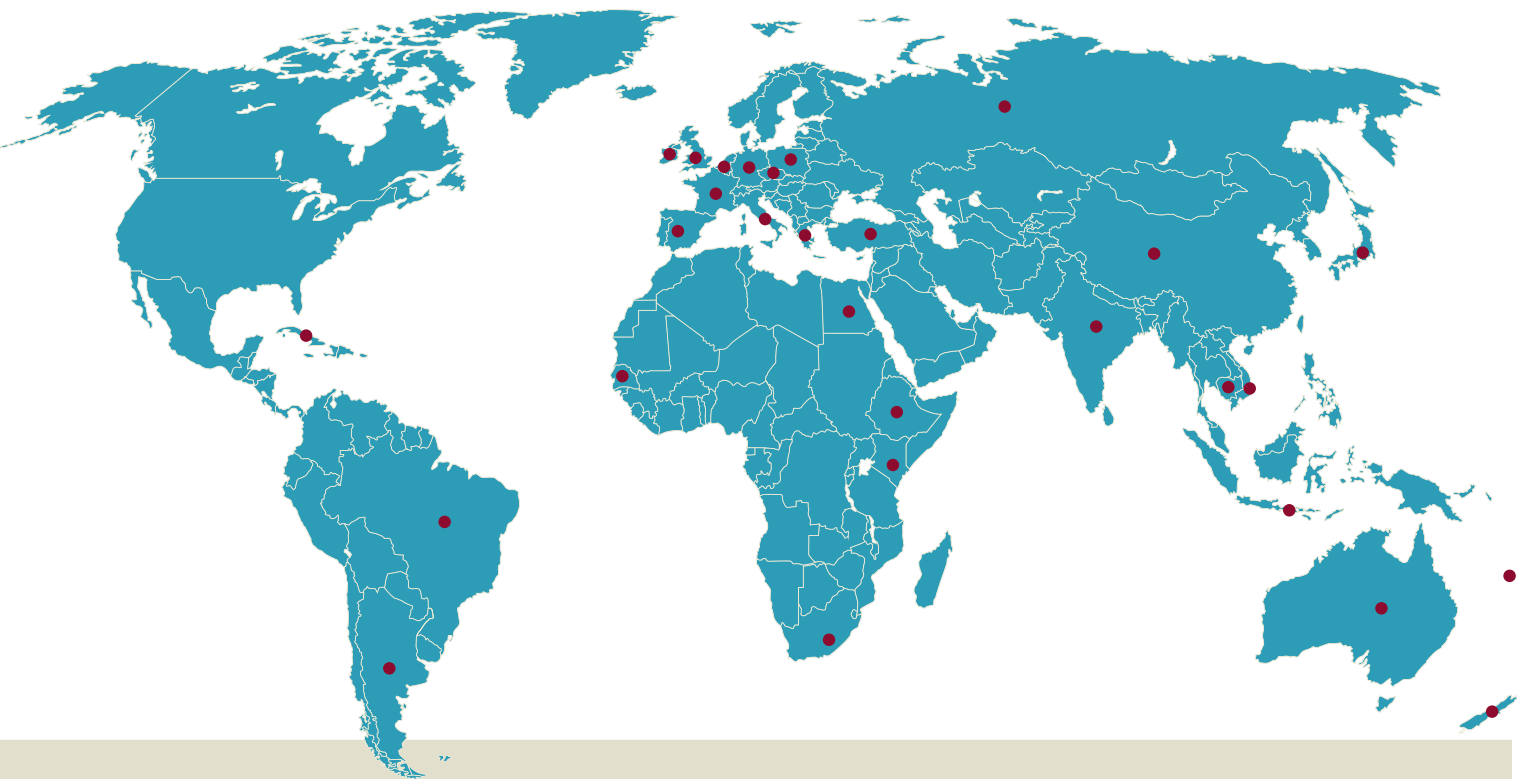
# To the world and back

## No. 6

Union College rank  
for Most Popular  
Study Abroad Programs\*

## 60%

More than 60 percent of  
Union students from all  
disciplines study abroad.



### Study abroad and Mini-terms

- Argentina
- Australia
- Bali
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- China
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Egypt
- England
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Holocaust History
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- National Health Systems
- New Zealand
- Russia
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Spain
- Turkey
- Vietnam

## In Bali, understanding culture through art

A dozen students in the College's inaugural Bali mini-term in 2012 found the best way to understand Balinese culture was to participate in the music, dance and ritual ceremonies. "The arts are vastly important to understanding culture—any culture," said Prof. Jennifer Matsue, who led the term. "Music and dance don't exist in a vacuum. They exist in a culture and express the culture in which they exist."

## Holocaust mini-term among new Jewish Studies programs

Eleven students traveled to Poland and Lithuania in the summer of 2013 to study the Holocaust first-hand and to help restore a Jewish cemetery in the small Lithuanian town of Aukstadvaris. The trip was supported by a number of alumni. Stephen Berk, the Henry and Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust and Jewish Studies, provided background lectures and met the group in Poland. Other recent initiatives have strengthened the College's Jewish Studies program and outreach to alumni. They have included a popular on-line video lecture series on the Holocaust by Prof. Berk, and an endowed fund for Jewish Studies made possible by a gift from Dr. Arnold Goldschlager '59, a prominent San Francisco cardiologist.

## Vietnam

Students returned from a term in Vietnam with a gallery full of photos depicting the country's rich culture. The term was led by Martin Benjamin, professor of photography.



*The College's Balinese gamelan, Gita Semara (Song of Love) is a custom-made orchestra of xylophones, gongs, chimes and flutes that can be played by more than 20 people simultaneously. Under the direction of Jennifer Matsue, professor and director of world music, the gamelan is played by scholars of Balinese music and students in music classes and the Asian Percussion Workshop.*





## New Zealand

Prof. Doug Klein led a mini-term to New Zealand where students worked in multi-disciplinary teams to assess alternative approaches to natural resource management and energy production, including wind power.

## Australia

Students on term in Australia focused on the marine and terrestrial ecology of eastern Australia. The term integrated lectures with field trips to investigate a variety of ecosystems, including the Great Barrier Reef and the subtropical rainforest of Lamington National Park.



*Students march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where on "Bloody Sunday" in 1965 hundreds were beaten during a march for voting rights*

## Domestic mini-terms: Civil Rights, the Mexican border, elections and service

Popular domestic mini-terms have brought students to explore the history and important places of the Civil Rights movement. Others have studied the history and culture of the U.S.-Mexican border or the Presidential primary in New Hampshire. A community service mini-term brought students to New Orleans to provide relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

## Watsons, Fulbrights, Goldwaters

Since 2006, Union students have earned a number of prestigious fellowships and scholarships. Among them, 10 Thomas J. Watson Fellowships for independent study abroad, 16 Fulbright grants through the U.S. government's flagship educational exchange program; and seven Barry Goldwater Scholarships (with five honorable mentions) in support of sophomores and juniors pursuing research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering.

The prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship—known as the “dream grant”—provides a one-year stipend to support independent study abroad.

Watson Fellows include:

**Andrew Krauss '08**, a double major in philosophy and mechanical engineering, researched the development of outrigger canoes and paddles in Tonga, the Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

**Frederick (Rahde) Franke '10**, an interdepartmental history and political science major, researched the intimate connection between food and culture in Jamaica, Turkey, India, Vietnam and Argentina.

**James Morton '10**, a history and environmental science major, combined his love of photography and the sea by photographing the shipping industry in Southeast Asia, Australia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Germany.

**Joshua Anderson '13**, a mechanical engineering major, traveled through the United Kingdom, Denmark, Belgium, Nepal and

Tanzania for his project, “Holistic Self-sufficiency: Exploring the Intersection of Community, Innovation and Self.”

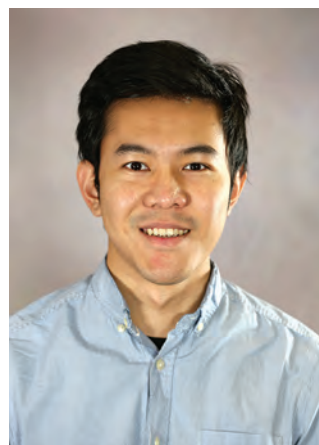
**Shilpa Darivemula '13**, a pre-med student majoring in biology and Spanish, traveled to Bolivia, Ghana, Indonesia and Cambodia to study healing through traditional dance.

**Sean Day '14**, a bioengineering major, studied cultural perceptions of disabilities in the United Kingdom, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, India and Japan.

**Shiqing “Licia” He '14**, a computer science and studio art major, studied natural dye production around the globe.

**Karlee Bergendorff '15**, a political science major with a dual concentration in art history and fine arts, studied alternative history in Argentina, Germany, India, Cambodia and South Africa.

**Warren Thompson '15**, a biochemistry and music major, studied the ritual of flute music in Japan, Australia, India and Peru.



*Htoo Wai Htet '16*

### MOST RECENT WATSON CONSIDERS THE TECH GAP

**Htoo Wai Htet '16**, Union's latest Watson Fellow, will travel to Switzerland, England and Japan to investigate the gap between advancement and affordability of technology.

Htet was one of 39 students nationwide selected for the fellowship from more than 700 candidates nominated by private liberal arts colleges and universities in the United States.

This marks the fourth straight year that the College has had a Watson fellow. The children of Thomas J. Watson, Sr., the founder of IBM, and his wife, Jeanette K. Watson, established the program in 1967 to honor their parents' longstanding interest in education and world affairs.

Htet, an electrical engineering and computer science double major from Myanmar, received \$30,000 to travel outside the country for a year.

## Bioengineering grads headed to Germany

**Theo Di Pauli von Treuheim '16** was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to do research in a German lab specializing in spine biomechanics. A bioengineering major and hockey player with a 3.97 GPA, Di Pauli von Treuheim plans to attend medical school after his research year.

**Macaire Grobe '16**, a bioengineering major, was honored with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX) Fellowship. She was one of 75 American students to study, live and work in Germany for a year following graduation. CBYX fellows have the opportunity to pursue paid work or internships and live with hosts.



*Matthew Manning '12, Matthew Graveley '12 and Alethea Schepperly '12 were among the first Union interns in IBM's Smart Planet Initiative, a program in which experts from different backgrounds tackle critical world issues using technology.*

## Students earn IBM internships

Three Union students spent their summers in 2011 abroad after earning global internships with IBM that provided hands-on experience in solving real world problems.

The internships were part of IBM's Smart Planet Initiative, a program in which experts from different backgrounds—commerce, governments and academic institutions—tackled critical world issues (such as river flow, traffic congestion and medical birth defects) using technology.

**Alethea Schepperly '12** and **Matthew Graveley '12** worked in the IBM China Research Lab in Beijing, while **Matthew Manning '12** was based at IBM Zurich.

Schepperly, a Chinese and East Asian studies interdisciplinary major from Hopewell Junction, N.Y., specialized in social media and communications. She spent a term abroad in China. Graveley, a biomedical engineering major from Lowville, N.Y., tested pipe integrity in waste water management systems. And Manning, an electrical engineering major from Syracuse, N.Y., was

employed as a general research intern in science and technology.

"Research internships require a lot of abilities and skills that you learn in the classroom," Manning said. "I think these internships show a lot of confidence in Union's curriculum."

The internships are part of the partnership between Union and IBM. The company has hired many Union graduates, and it also recently donated one of its Intelligent Cluster computing solutions to the College.

The collaboration demonstrates the value IBM places on Union's interdisciplinary approach to liberal arts education, which emphasizes both breadth and depth.

"These opportunities help us immensely as we continue to build our international presence," said President Stephen C. Ainlay. "It gives our students hands-on experience and enhances their cultural awareness while providing a world-class company like IBM with access to some of our best and brightest students."

## Budding entrepreneurs go west

Prof. George Gmelch of Anthropology led a pilot program with student-interns at entrepreneurial startups in the San Francisco area. Prior to departure, Prof. Hal Fried of Economics and Jim Cirincione '90, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, conducted an orientation on West Coast management style. This program was strongly supported by other successful West Coast alumni including Steve Ciesinski '70, Andy Miller '90 and Ron Pitluk '91. Steve Eskenazi '83 suggested the idea to President Ainlay.



## Davis Peace Scholar

**Oema Rambharose '15**, who grew up in a tiny farming village in Suriname, remembers the lack of amenities at her school. So, the neuroscience major planning a career in medicine went back to her South American school as a Davis Peace Scholar. Last summer, she used a \$10,000 prize from the Kathryn W. Davis Projects for Peace to build a multi-purpose room that will serve as a lunchroom and gymnasium.



## Minerva Fellows meet the world, and bring it back

In 2008, nine of Union's newest grads set out on a mission of social entrepreneurship to improve the lives of those in developing countries. Every year since, Union's Minerva Fellows commit to 10 months of service followed by a month on campus where they share their experience with classes, at Minerva Houses and in presentations. Since the Minerva Fellowships began, 81 fellows have worked in 12 countries on projects ranging from a textile business for handmade fabrics in India to a college prep program in Ecuador to a soap-making venture in Uganda.





*Prof. Andrew Morris at the  
Kelly Adirondack Center*

## At Kelly Adirondack Center, studying history and environment

A short ride from campus, the Kelly Adirondack Center is a hub for the study of the history and environmental issues of the Adirondack region. The Center's Adirondack Library boasts one of the largest collections of materials outside of the park, including the extensive papers of conservationists John Apperson and Paul Schaefer. Prof. Andrew Morris this year led a class on the history of the national conservation movement for which the Adirondack Park is a model.

They took a trip to an Adirondack ghost town and an abandoned iron works, made a five-mile trek (one way) to a stunning lake and 19th-century great camp, and had an overnight adventure with paddling, s'mores and a hike to an old fire tower.

"That sense of place was really important in the development of different attitudes toward the Adirondack environment and region," Morris said. "It was vital to get students up there so they could have their feet on the ground and the landscape in their memories."



*Kelly Adirondack Center*



*Shannon Holly and Andy Zou '17, Union's latest Adirondack Fellows, spent the summer conducting independent research on issues impacting the Adirondacks.*



*Jillmarie Murphy, associate professor of English, above, has written and taught extensively on Adirondack literature, making use of the resources at Kelly Adirondack Center.*

*Prof. Morris' class at Tahawus Iron Works*

# Enhancing academic programs

*Nick Weidhaas '15, Prof. Don Rodbell and Grace Delgado '14 with a sediment core from beneath Lake Junín, Peru*

In the past decade, the College has added four endowed chairs.

- The John and Jane Wold Professor of Religious Studies (a new position held by Peter Bedford)
- The Donald C. Brate '45-Stanley G. Peschel '52 Professor of Statistics (Roger Hoerl)
- The Feigenbaum Professor of Behavioral Economics (Kaywana Raeburn), and
- The James Kenney Professorship in Environmental Engineering (search underway).

The College also added four new tenure lines, one each in Visual Arts (digital arts), Modern Languages and Literatures (Chinese), Geology and Psychology.

With the faculty additions, we have strengthened existing programs and added new areas of study including bioengineering, digital arts, behavioral economics.

New academic programs have been added in two majors, Religious Studies and Chinese, which were formerly offered as minors. We have added minors in Statistics and Film Studies.

## Faculty accomplishments

**Jillmarie Murphy**, associate professor of English, was named a Byron A. Nichols Fellow for 2016-18. The rotating fellowship supports faculty development and honors the 40-year career of Professor of Political Science Emeritus Byron Nichols. It is supported by a lead gift from Susan Mullaney Maycock '72 and her husband, Alan, former professor of chemistry, and gifts from more than 100 other alumni. Other Nichols Fellows were Ashraf Ghaly, Carl B. Jansen Professor of Engineering; Carol S. Weisse, professor of psychology and director of Health Professions; and Stephen J. Schmidt, professor of economics.

**Bradley Hays**, associate professor of political science, has been a regular guest on "Congressional Corner" on WAMC, Northeast Public Radio, a member of National Public Radio serving parts of seven northeastern states. He discussed the 2016 presidential campaign between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

**Valerie Barr**, professor of computer science, was a panelist at the United Nations Women conference, "A Call to Action for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment." Her panel, "Broadening Participation in Computing Fields: Bringing About Gender Parity," was organized by Google.

**Zoe Oxley**, professor of political science and director of American Studies, provided expert analysis for the *Times Union* series, "Women in Politics." Oxley's expertise includes gender stereotyping and elections as well as the gender gap in public opinion and voting. She has published journal articles and book

chapters on these topics, including "Gender Stereotyping in State Executive Elections: Candidate Selection and Success," "Why No Madame President? Gender and Presidential Politics in the United States," and "Women's Support for an Active Government."

**Chad Orzel**, associate professor of physics and astronomy, has devoted much of his recent career to making science less mysterious and intimidating. He is the author of three popular books: *How to Think Like a Scientist*, *How to Teach Physics to Your Dog* and *How to Teach Relativity to Your Dog*. He also spoke at TED@NYC, a talent search for the main TED conference.

**Christopher Chabris**, associate professor of psychology, is co-author (with Daniel Simons of the University of Illinois) of the well-known book, *The Invisible Gorilla*, which investigated what researchers call "inattention blindness," the failure to see the unexpected. The title comes from their most famous experiment, in which someone dressed as a gorilla walks through the middle of a video of a basketball game. Half of the observers, tasked with counting passes in the basketball game, did not notice the gorilla.

**Mary Carroll '86**, professor of chemistry, was recently named a fellow of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society. With **Ann Anderson**, the Agnes S. MacDonald Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Prof. Carroll was honored with the Insight Into Diversity 2015 Inspiring Women in STEM Award. They were recognized



Mary Carroll '86

in the September 2015 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine*, which honored 100 women.

**Donald T. Rodbell**, professor of geology, was lead investigator of a \$2.7 million National Science Foundation project to produce and study the first continuous core of sediment from beneath Lake Junin in the highlands of the Peruvian Andes. The project is revealing important information about global climate history.

**Robert Olberg**, the Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Life Sciences, has spent years researching the role that visual neurons play in allowing dragonflies to track and catch their prey. He was part of a team of researchers whose paper on the topic was published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS), one of the world's most-cited multidisciplinary scientific journals. The paper received the Cozzarelli Prize for outstanding contributions to the scientific disciplines represented by the National Academy of Sciences.

**Samuel Amanuel**, associate professor of physics and astronomy, has co-authored (with Will Linthicum '14) a study on storing heat energy in molten salt, a measure that could make energy consumption more sustainable. They investigated the possibility of increasing salt's specific heat capacity through the introduction of nano particles. The research is supported by the Cornell University-NASA N.Y. Space Grant Consortium.

**Faculty accomplishments, con't.**

**Laura MacManus-Spencer**, associate professor of chemistry, studies the ways perfluorooctanoic acids (PFOAs) interact with human serum albumin. PFOAs, used in everything from technical fabrics to non-stick pans, have been found in the drinking water of several New York communities; every U.S. resident has some measureable amount in their blood. In high doses, PFOAs are associated with liver toxicity and cancer. MacManus-Spencer is investigating the effects of long-term, low-dose exposure. Her work is supported by the National Science Foundation.

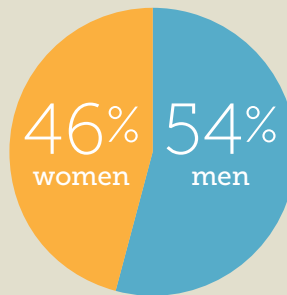
**Seyfollah Maleki**, the R. Gordon Gould Professor of Physics and Astronomy, is director of Union's Art Conservation Analysis Lab, an interdisciplinary program that also involves students and faculty from art, art history, chemistry and engineering. The equipment purchased by a state grant—an IR camera, a surgical microscope system, and an Erbium YAG laser—compliment Union's shared instrumentation laboratory. The program is a resource for art conservators at Peebles Island, a state facility for the preservation and restoration of New York's artistic heritage, and Olana, the historic home of painter Frederic Church.

**Kathleen LoGiudice**, professor of biology, and **Stephen Schmidt**, professor of economics (with Scott Morlando '08) investigated the expected costs of treating Lyme disease as part of a larger study, "Reduction in Lyme Disease Risk as an Economic Benefit of Habitat Restoration" (published in *Restoration Ecology*). They found that the cost of treating one case of Lyme averaged \$8,568. They determined that habitat remediation to reduce Lyme-carrying tick populations in the Albany Pine Bush would pay for itself in savings of public health costs.

**General statistics**

2,200

Full-time undergraduates



39

States and territories represented

37

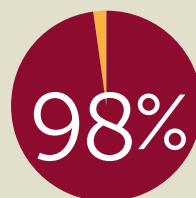
Countries represented

10:1

Student-faculty ratio

209

faculty members



of faculty have earned a Ph.D. or the highest degree in their field

**Class of 2020**

563

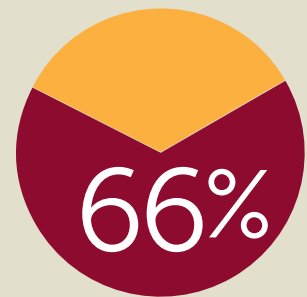
Average number of students per incoming class

6,647

Record number of applications

39%

Early decisions students



Students ranked in the top 10 of their high school class

SAT middle 50%

600-690

Critical Reading

620-720

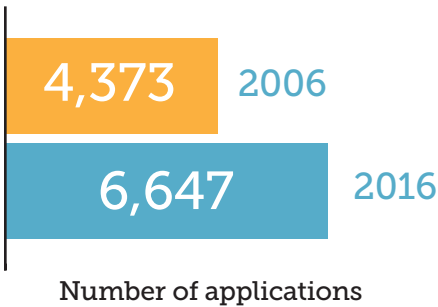
Math

(Tests administered before March 2016)

# Admissions success

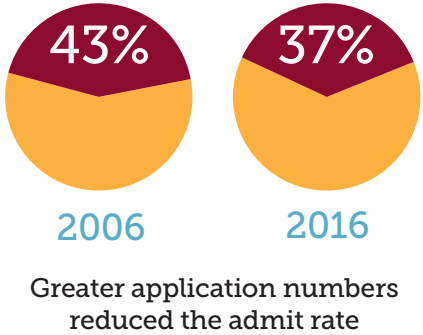
Important measures of a college’s success can be seen in the number, quality and diversity of admitted students. Over the past decade, Union has seen tremendous growth in a number of metrics associated with incoming students.

## Growth in applications

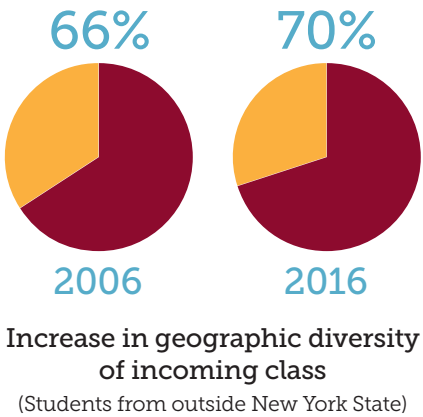
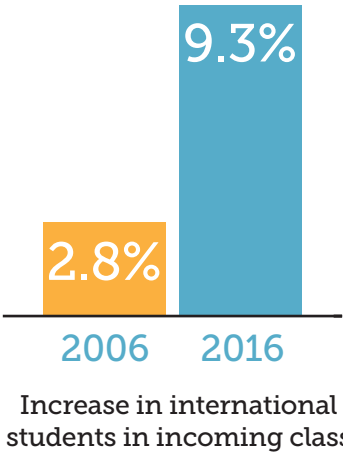
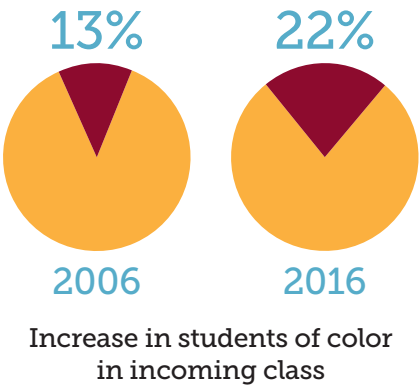


6 of 10  
Years that saw  
recording-breaking  
applications

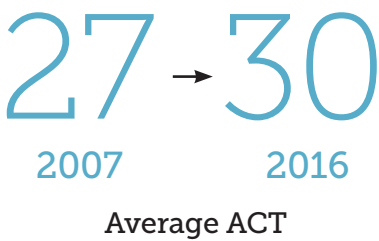
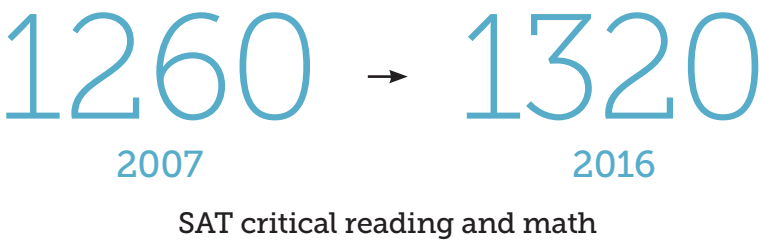
## Percent of admitted students



## An increase in diversity



## Gains in test results





You are Union

## Cost & financial aid

- \$43 million in Union College scholarships and grants are awarded each year
- More than 60% of all Union students receive financial assistance from the College
- The average need-based scholarship is \$32,500
- The average merit award is \$10,000

# A TRADITION OF SUPPORT SECURES OUR FUTURE

In President Ainlay's first full fiscal year, Union had commitments (which includes gifts, pledges, actualized gifts, matching and government grants) of \$16.1 million.

In the year ending June 2016, Union had commitments of \$41.2 million, a record in commitments during the president's tenure and 53 percent over our previous best year in his tenure (\$26.9 million in 2011).

The annual growth in capital gifts is 11.2 percent.

Comparing the president's first year to the last, the Annual Fund grew by 70 percent.

\$41.2  
million

Gift commitments in  
2016



\$16.1  
million

Gift commitments in  
2007

11.2%

Annual growth  
in capital gifts

70%

Growth in Annual Fund  
between 2007 and 2016

## 'You Are Union' sets a new bar for campaigns

In 2012, the "You are Union" campaign topped its goal of \$250 million, the largest and most comprehensive fundraising campaign in the College's history.

Launched in 2004 and expanded by \$50 million in 2008, it was transformative to student scholarships and financial aid, faculty support, research programs, campus facilities and other priority needs outlined in the school's Strategic Plan.

"When Union began the 'You Are Union' campaign, consultants advised that we should set a much lower goal. I am proud of our alumni and friends who proved them wrong. This is a historic moment for this historic college," Ainlay said. "The generous support we've received, even in the face of a remarkably challenging economic environment, has given us great institutional momentum and created remarkable opportunities for our students."

Supported by campaign co-chairs, Mark Walsh '76 and Frank Messa '73, the effort will stand proudly in the top half of capital campaigns completed by the nation's finest 50 liberal arts colleges.



**\$258**  
million raised

**34,000**  
Total donors

**60%**  
of all donors were alumni



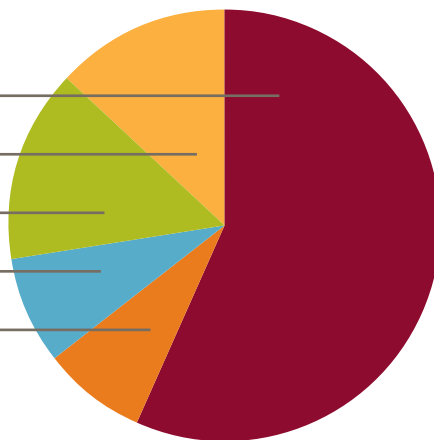
### Capital projects supported by the campaign:

- The Peter Irving Wold Center
- The Minerva Houses
- Lippman Hall
- The Viniar Athletic Center
- Messa Rink
- The Breazzano Fitness Center
- The Taylor Music Center
- The Henle Dance Pavilion
- The Wicker Wellness Center



### Campaign priorities

Annual Fund	\$71 million
Financial Aid	\$40 million
Faculty Support	\$40 million
Campus Revitalization	\$33 million
Curriculum and program activities, faculty and undergraduate research opportunities, and student life enhancements	\$27 million



"When our search committee met Stephen Ainlay, it was clear that we had found the best person who could connect with the many diverse constituencies of the College. That connection was vital to the success of the 'You Are Union' campaign. Through that campaign, and Stephen's leadership, every aspect of life at Union has been positively affected."



Frank L. Messa '73  
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
2007-2011*

# 100

New scholarships funded

## Foundations support a range of innovative programs

Below is a partial list of grants the College has received in support of programming since 2006.

### **THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

#### **Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program**

Since 2006, Union has secured three coveted S-STEM awards totaling over \$1.7M in support of scholarship and educational enrichment programs. With this funding, Union has increased the number of talented students with demonstrated need in obtaining degrees in STEM and entering the workforce or graduate programs. Each award supported a cohort of students—SUCCESS scholars—who received guidance from dedicated faculty mentors through curricular and co-curricular experiences.

#### **National Science Foundation's Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program**

Since 2006, the College has been awarded 12 MRI grants totaling over \$3.25M for the acquisition and development of state-of-the-art laboratory instrumentation. Faculty across the science and engineering departments engage in advanced research, and provide students myriad opportunities to participate in cutting-edge, hands-on research. Students present their results at the Steinmetz Symposium and national scientific meetings, and many are co-authors with faculty on papers in peer-reviewed journals.

### **Academic Research Infrastructure—American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARI-R2) Program**

In 2009, the College secured a \$900,000 grant to establish the Center for Neuroscience in Butterfield Hall. The center has provided students access to technologically advanced and diverse research usually available only to graduate students and post-doctoral researchers at much larger institutions. The enhanced facilities and adjacency to the computer science, electrical and computer engineering and bioengineering programs have increased collaborative research opportunities.

### **THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION**

#### **Presidential Leadership Grants**

In 2007, the Foundation awarded a New President grant to support curricular initiatives to integrate the liberal arts and engineering. Union's inaugural Engineering and Liberal Arts Symposium was made possible through this grant, and its impact has been lasting. Today, Union continues to host this event, enabling faculty and academic administrators from across the nation to share ideas and innovative best practices.

In 2014, the President received a Mid-Career President grant to support faculty study tours that will transform the liberal arts through cross-disciplinary, global experiences. The grant strengthens our Common Curriculum—through which Union students discover the liberal arts—

by creating connections among courses, disciplines, and perspectives that support Union's mission.

#### **Faculty Bridge Grant**

In 2008, an \$800,000 grant was awarded in support of tenure-track bridge faculty appointments in Philosophy, English, and Anthropology. The new hires enabled the College to enhance its academic offerings by expanding disciplinary expertise, while taking a proactive approach to transitioning senior faculty from teaching to retirement.

### **Environmental Science, Policy, and Engineering (ESPE) Grant**

In 2009, the Foundation awarded Union with a \$600,000 grant to further integrate environmental science, policy, and engineering with the establishment of the interdisciplinary program, ESPE. ESPE is fundamental to the goals of the Strategic Plan, which stresses a commitment to environmental sustainability as well as the development of an academic program that fully integrates the sciences, social sciences, humanities and engineering. President Ainlay secured funding from an alumnus to sustain ESPE when the grant expired.

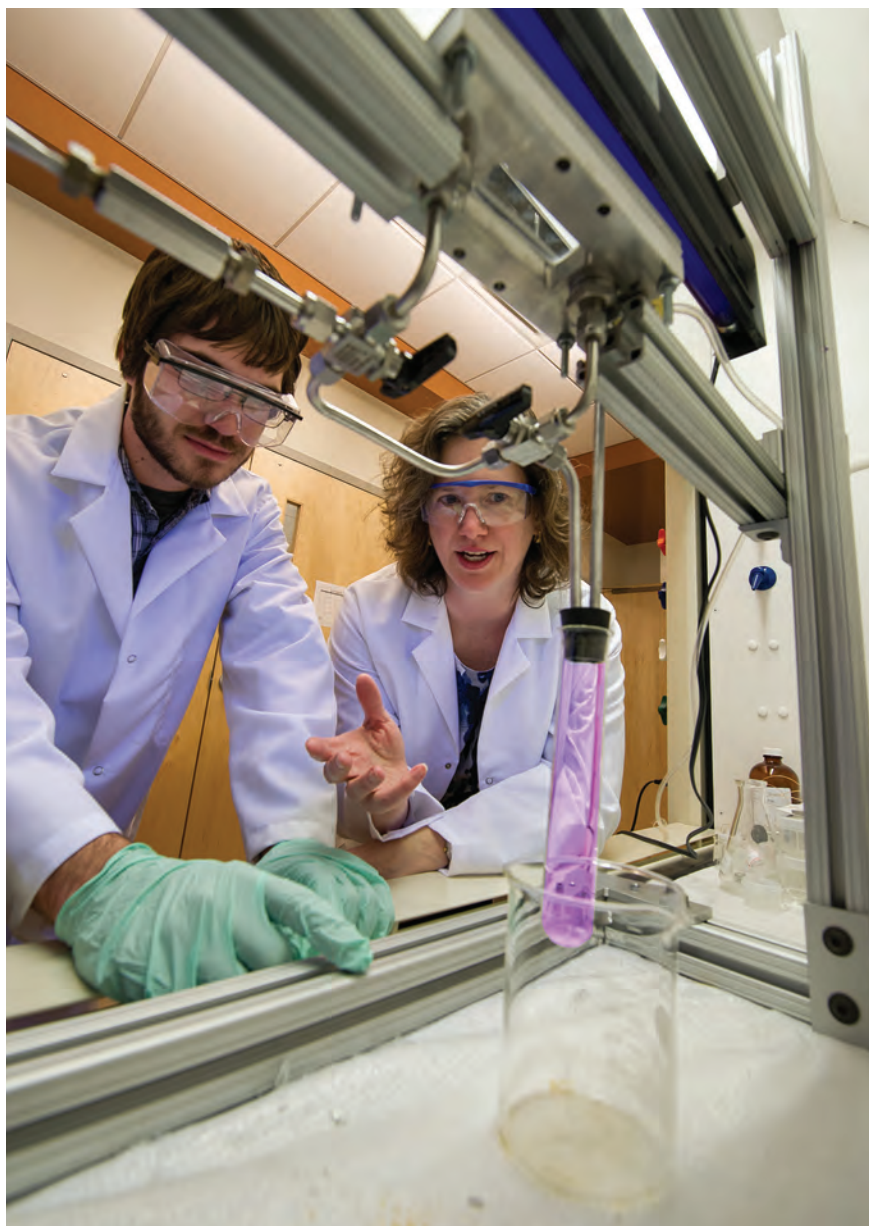
#### **Our Shared Humanities Grant**

In 2015, "Our Shared Humanities," a project to strengthen and integrate the arts and humanities, received an \$800,000 grant from the Foundation. The project enables faculty to focus on shared interests, and to foster

teaching that brings together faculty and students across disciplinary boundaries to work on projects of mutual importance.

### **The New York Six**

The New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium comprises Union, Colgate University, Hamilton College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Skidmore College and St. Lawrence University. Created in 2009 with a grant by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the mission of the New York Six is to facilitate collaboration among its member institutions in fulfilling their educational missions and serving the public good. Through the sharing of expertise and resources, the Consortium enhances options for students, faculty, and staff, while reducing each institution's operating and capital costs.



### **THE GEORGE I. ALDEN TRUST**

Since 2006, Union has been supported by the Alden Trust to enable the completion of institutional priority projects, such as new construction and electronic classrooms in renovated buildings. Highlights of these grants include \$175,000 in 2014 to support renovations to Humanities (now Karp Hall), a \$175,000 grant in 2010 for the Peter Irving Wold Center for Science and Engineering, and \$150,000 in 2007 to create an electronic classroom in Social Sciences (now Lippmann Hall).

### **THE ARTHUR VINING DAVIS FOUNDATIONS**

In 2010, the Foundations awarded a \$250,000 grant to further develop Bioengineering. By building a strong interdisciplinary program in Bioengineering, the College created an academic environment where students draw on the knowledge of faculty from different disciplines to develop highly original approaches to biological and biomedical research and design problems. Bioengineering is one of Union's most popular majors.

### **THE WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION**

In addition to their generous annual merit scholarship support, the Wright Family Foundation in 2010 awarded a \$300,000 grant to support the biochemistry laboratory and instrumentation space in the Peter Irving Wold Center.

# OUR HISTORIC CAMPUS

"The Nott Memorial screams volumes about our institutional history and ethics and it serves as a sort of institutional compass. It reminds all of us at Union that our origin and our obligation to counteract all the many forces of fragmentation that too often operate in our world and pull us apart from one another. It should call us together and affirm the value of communities of difference, united in educational purpose and committed to the values of dialogical education. It should remind us that genuine dialogue becomes possible only when we humanize those with whom we disagree and when we profess and model the attending virtues of toleration and civility. It should motivate us to resist the polarizing effects of the culture wars and to be vigilant so as to include those who have not yet been invited to the table."

— Stephen C. Ainlay, Inaugural Address,  
September 16, 2006



In 2013 we celebrated the bicentennial of Joseph Ramée's design of the Union College campus—the first campus to be designed with a master plan, elements of which were reproduced on campuses across the United States during the 19th century by the many Union alumni who became college and university presidents.

The genius of Ramée rests not only in the physical beauty of the campus; it also stems from the fact that this campus has a remarkable capacity to create a sense of what humanist geographers and social psychologists call "place identity" or "place attachment."

Working to preserve and improve the campus, our approach has been to balance the seemingly oppositional architectural forces of the Ramée design with state-of-the-art facilities—respecting tradition while creating innovative space conducive to contemporary teaching and learning. This approach is entirely consistent with our Strategic Plan and institutional identity.

While we have done much to enhance our campus, we will continue to do more because this is our obligation to this historic place and to the rich educational legacy that is Union College.

# Building our future

During President Ainlay's tenure, the College has built or renovated 14 buildings.



2007

1

**Taylor Music Center renovation and expansion**



2007

2

**Butterfield Hall renovation**  
Bioengineering, Neuroscience, Mechanical Engineering faculty labs



2008

3

**Breazzano Fitness Center renovation**



2011

4

**Peter Irving Wold Center (new)**  
Interdisciplinary programs including Biochemistry, Environmental Studies, and Electrical Engineering and Music Research



2011

5

**Lippman Hall renovation**  
Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology



2012

6

**Lamont House renovation**  
Anthropology, Classics, Philosophy, Religious Studies



2013

7

**Henle Dance Pavilion (new)**



2013

8

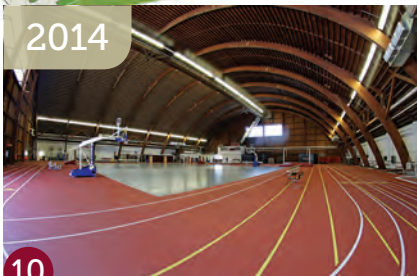
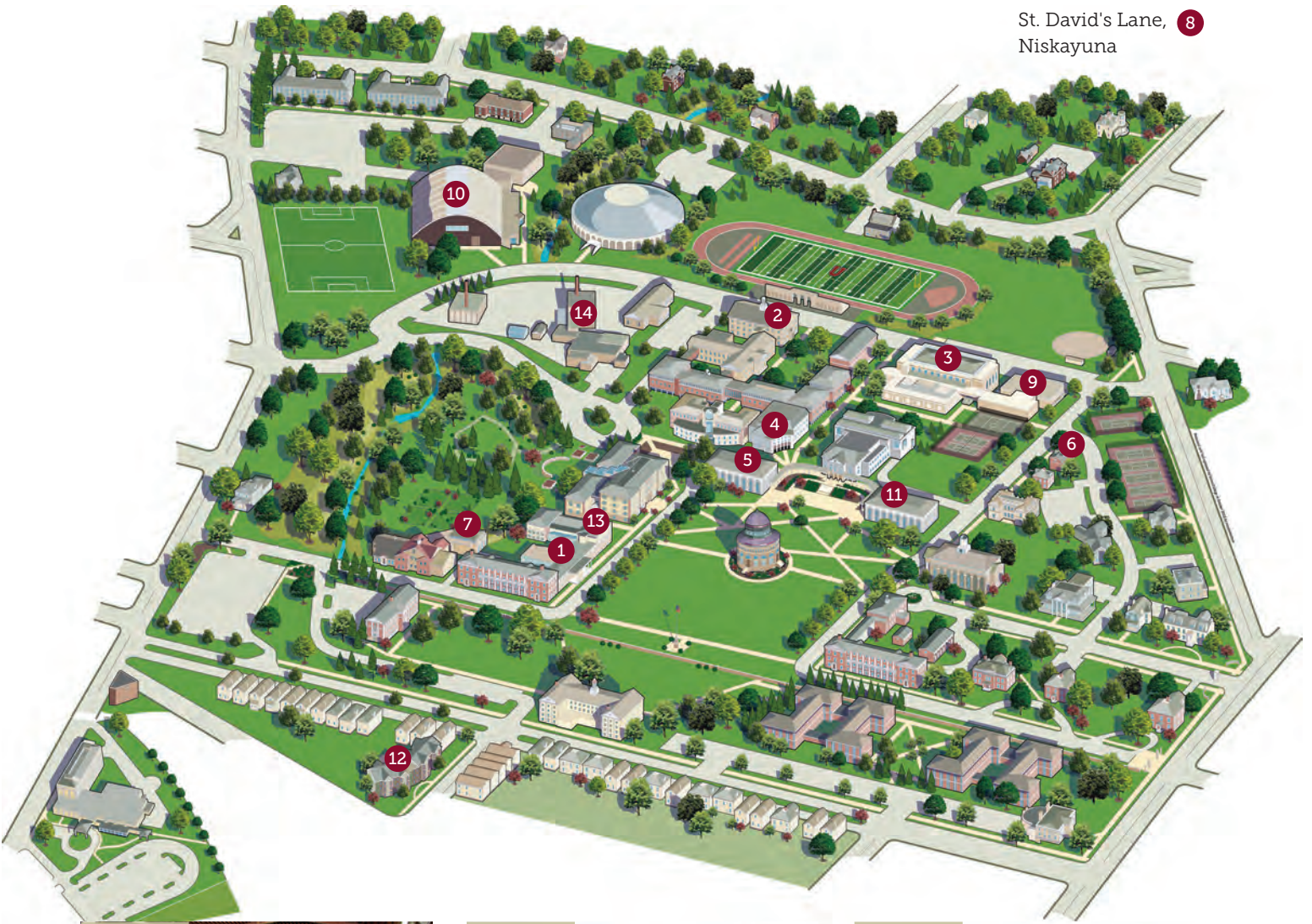
**Kelly Adirondack Center acquisition and dedication**



2013

9

**Wicker Wellness Center (new)**



10

**Memorial Fieldhouse renovation**



11

**Karp Hall renovation** | English, Modern Languages, Film Studies



12

**Garnet Commons (new)**



13

**Feigenbaum Center for the Visual Arts renovation and expansion**



14

**Co-gen plant (new)**

# The building continues



## The case for Science and Engineering

"The College has begun work near the Science and Engineering complex to address some long-needed utilities upgrades and to prepare for extensive improvements we hope to make to the complex. Time has taken a toll on the building's systems, and teaching and research in the sciences and engineering have changed. An excellent faculty and sophisticated instrumentation have made up for deficiencies in the space, but the time has come to address this important need.

"The Wold Center, dedicated in May of 2011, was the first phase of what we've known would be a far larger project. A planning group has been working with the architectural

firm of Einhorn, Yaffee and Prescott on the re-design of the S&E complex. After many tours, discussions and plan iterations, we have arrived at a design that will advance science and engineering education and will set us apart. This design also will cause the least disruption possible to our campus and the teaching of science and engineering.

"This project is exceptionally important to Union, our standing within higher education, and to our desire to be a premier institution offering arts, humanities, social sciences, sciences and engineering. This academic facilities 'capstone' will further strengthen our appeal to prospective students and faculty.

"This will be an expensive undertaking. The Trustees have made clear that we must secure sufficient commitments before we can begin. Thus, I along with our College Relations staff have been traveling the country, indeed the globe, to secure the necessary support. I'm pleased that we've received substantial and enthusiastic support, and our conversations with a number of prospective supporters continue. We will formally announce our progress at appropriate times in the months ahead."

– Stephen C. Ainlay, Convocation Address, Sept. 6, 2016

"Traveling with Stephen to fundraising meetings and alumni events, I was always struck by how effortlessly he weaved Union's history into his comments. Stephen uses his knowledge of our past to define our present, and to help us envision a future for the school that is aspirational and compelling. He has helped all of us learn more about why we love the place. I can never thank him enough for that."



Mark Walsh '76  
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
2011-2015*



# SPEAKERS AND EVENTS



"Education at its best has the potential to play a key strategic role in counteracting polarization by emphasizing the value of dialogue, helping students understand difference without reducing it to 'a matter of perspective, and celebrating mutual respect.' It is no small challenge to achieve these qualities in any environment, and monologue is certainly easier than dialogue, but if not in higher education, where?"

—Stephen C. Ainlay, Opening Convocation address, Sept. 6, 2016

**Founders Day**, celebrated in February, commemorates the anniversary of the granting of the College's charter in 1795 and features an address by a noted academic, author or researcher.

2007

**Dr. Ira Rutkow '70**, surgeon, author and scholar on the history of American medicine, spoke on 19th-century alumni who made critical advances in American medicine.

2008

**Paul LeClerc**, former Union professor of French and president of the New York Public Library, spoke on library founder, publisher and statesman John Bigelow (Class of 1835).

2009

**James McPherson**, Civil War historian and the George Henry Davis '86 Professor of American History Emeritus at Princeton University, spoke on Union's role in the abolitionist movement and Civil War.

2010

**Deborah Bial**, founder and president of the Posse Foundation, spoke on the importance of championing diversity at Union and in the world.

2011

**Martha Nussbaum**, advocate for the humanities and the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, spoke on the importance of the liberal arts.

2012

**Richard Russo**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of novels set in the Mohawk Valley, read from his books *Bridge of Sighs* (novel) and *Elsewhere* (memoir).

2013

**Walter Stahr**, biographer of William Henry Seward (Class of 1820), spoke about the man who was Abraham Lincoln's secretary of state and closest advisor during the Civil War.

2014

**Dr. Alfred Sommer '63**, University Distinguished Service Professor of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University whose work saved the eyesight of millions of children, spoke about public health issues such as obesity and smoking.

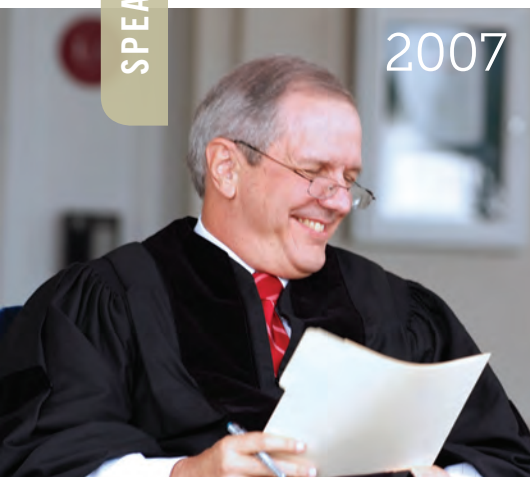
2015

**Laura Skandera Trombley**, president of Pitzer College and national voice for liberal arts education, spoke on the value of the humanities.

2016

**Sherry Turkle**, the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT, spoke on the relationship of people with technology.





2007



2008



2009



2010



2012



2011



2013



2014



2015



2016

**Commencement**, celebrated in June,  
features an address by a nationally prominent figure.

2007

**Charles Gibson**, broadcast journalist and anchor of ABC World News, outlined five ethical imperatives for students: compassion, honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and respect.

2008

**Ruth J. Simmons**, prominent leader in higher education and first African-American president of an Ivy League institution (Brown University), encouraged graduates to influence change.

2009

**Paul Volcker**, former chair of the Federal Reserve and economic advisor of President Barack Obama, spoke about the abating recession and urged the Class of 2009 to save and invest.

2010

**Alan Horn '64**, then president and CEO of Warner Brothers, urged Union's newest alumni to take risks without fearing the failure everyone experiences at some point.

2011

**Judy Woodruff**, broadcast journalist and co-anchor of PBS NewsHour, highlighted the economic challenges graduates face, but also the bright futures within their reach.

2012

**Dylan Ratigan '94**, journalist, author and talk show host, challenged the Class of 2012 to "throw out the rulebook" and pursue their passions with abandon.

2013

**John Lewis**, U.S. Representative and organizer in the Civil Rights movement, spoke about his experiences and urged graduates to "get in the way" to help change America.

2014

**Dr. Deborah Birx**, international expert in HIV/AIDS, talked about the deadly impact of the disease in sub-Saharan Africa in the late 1990s, and the work that's been done to combat it.

2015

**Devin Wenig '88**, CEO of eBay, encouraged the Class of 2015 to "blaze your own trail" and "build your own futures" in a "world of warp-speed innovation."

2016

**Charlie Baker**, governor of Massachusetts, asked graduates to be like President Chester Arthur (Class of 1848)—"Don't be a jerk. Don't settle for average. And don't be afraid to fail."



## Gardner inaugurates Feigenbaum Forum on Innovation and Creativity

Howard Gardner, an internationally-renowned psychologist who developed the theory of multiple intelligences that revolutionized how educators teach their students, was the inaugural speaker in the Feigenbaum Forum on Innovation and Creativity. The second annual speaker was artist and designer Maya Lin. The forum is made possible through a gift from the Feigenbaum Foundation. The foundation was created by brothers Armand V. Feigenbaum '42 and Donald S. Feigenbaum '46, longtime benefactors to Union. Acknowledged world leaders in systems engineering and total quality control, the brothers founded General Systems Co., the Pittsfield, Mass.-based international systems engineering firm that designs and installs operational systems for corporations worldwide.



## Power of liberal arts is in broadening understanding

Freeman Hrabowski III, a prominent leader in science and math education, was the latest speaker in the ninth symposium on integrating a liberal education with engineering.

"The power of the liberal arts education is in thinking broadly about ways of getting people not in our disciplines to understand those disciplines and their impact on all of society," he said.

"Teachers touch eternity," he told the audience of higher ed teachers and administrators. "What we do not only changes the lives broadly of society, but we have the opportunity to touch people every day."

President of UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) since 1992, Hrabowski is a consultant to national agencies, universities and school systems.



*The one-two punch of Irene and Lee destroyed homes like this one in Rotterdam Junction. (Photo by Matt Milless)*

## Irene and Lee storms focus of annual Mohawk Watershed Symposium

Since 2009, Union has hosted the annual Mohawk Watershed Symposium with presentations on topics including flooding, water quality, watershed management and water rights in the Mohawk Valley. The 2012 symposium was devoted to the recovery from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, which devastated communities in the region. The conference is organized by John Garver, professor of geology.



## ALUMNI

- Leaders in all fields, including arts, medicine, science, engineering, media, entertainment, law and politics
- Nobel Prize and Academy Award winners, a National Book Award winner and a MacArthur Fellow, an Olympic Gold medalist, seven Cabinet secretaries, a secretary of state, 13 governors, 200 judges, 90 college presidents and the 21st president of the United States (to note just a few)



## Back on campus, alumni share experience

An ambitious alumni speaker series has brought dozens of alumni back to classrooms and lecture halls to share their Union experience and how it shaped their careers. Recent speakers have included Peter Haviland-Eduah '10, national policy director for Million Hoodies for Justice, which aims to empower young people of color to work against mass criminalization; Linda Klein '80, an Atlanta attorney and president of the American Bar Association; Trustee Jim Loree '80, president and CEO of Stanley Black and Decker; Jenny Sconyers Lawton '85, COO at Techstars; Norton Reamer '58, trustee, investment manager and author; and Julie Greifer-Swidler '79, executive vice president and general counsel at Sony Music Entertainment.

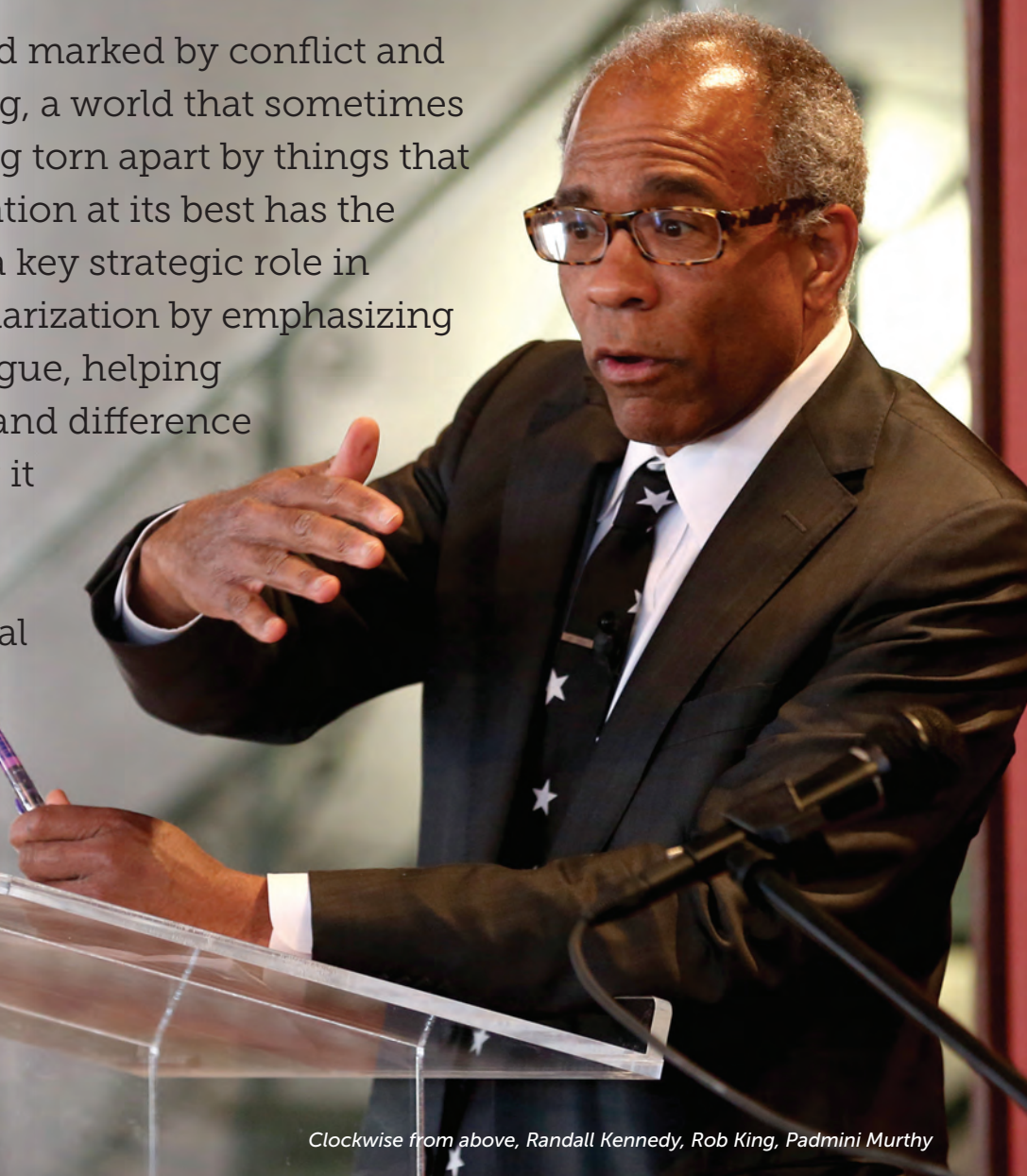


Recent alumni campus speakers have included, clockwise from top, Julie Greifer-Swidler '79, Linda Klein '80, Peter Haviland-Eduah '10, Jenny Sconyers Lawton '85, Norton Reamer '58 and Jim Loree '80.

# COMMUNITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

"We live in a world marked by conflict and misunderstanding, a world that sometimes feels as if it's being torn apart by things that divide us ... education at its best has the potential to play a key strategic role in counteracting polarization by emphasizing the value of dialogue, helping students understand difference without reducing it to a matter of perspective, and celebrating mutual respect."

— Stephen C. Ainlay,  
Inaugural Address,  
September 16, 2006



*Clockwise from above, Randall Kennedy, Rob King, Padmini Murthy*

## Presidential Forum on Diversity brings new perspectives to campus

The Presidential Forum on Diversity brings several prominent figures to campus each year on a range of topics designed to foster discussion in the larger Union community. Speakers have included John Quiñones, TV journalist with ABC News; Padmini Murthy, public health advocate; Rob King, vice president of ESPN's Sportscenter and News; Diane Patrick, former first lady of Massachusetts and an attorney and advocate for healthcare and education; Randall Kennedy, constitutional scholar; Barbara Smith, author activist and scholar; Eddie Daniels, South African freedom fighter; and Eboo Patel, a voice for interfaith leadership.



## Staff roles guide commitment to diversity

Early in his tenure, President Stephen C. Ainlay established diversity and inclusion as key elements of the College's Strategic Plan. Among his first acts was to create an office of diversity.



### CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

To build on the progress of creating a diverse and inclusive campus, the president this year named Gretchel Hathaway to a new title: Chief Diversity Officer and Dean of Diversity and Inclusion. As a member of the College's senior staff, she continues a key role in keeping diversity and inclusion at the fore of all discussions.



### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

Union values religion and spirituality as crucial parts of cultural diversity and student identity. The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life supports numerous religious, spiritual and values-based worldview organizations and welcomes student initiatives in forming others. "This is by far the most invigorating and challenging ministry I have ever had the pleasure of doing," said **Viki Brooks**, director of Religious and Spiritual Life. "I really enjoy talking with students, faculty, staff and administration about matters of the spirit or matters of their lives."



### DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

**Jason Benitez** joined the Campus Diversity Office as director of Multicultural Affairs in 2011. The Hispanic Coalition of New York named him one of the "Top 40 Rising Latino Stars Under 40."



*Poet Maya Angelou, one of the first speakers in the Presidential Forum on Diversity, drew a packed house in Memorial Chapel.*



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



*Gov. Kathy Hochul met with students during a tour to promote Gov. Andrew Cuomo's "Enough is Enough" initiative*



*Title IX coordinator Melissa Kelley*



*Sebastian Gingras '16, a defenseman on men's hockey, spoke on behalf of his teammates at a rally for the "It's on Us" campaign to combat sexual assault.*

## A welcoming and safe community, for all

A number of programs have taken aim at combatting campus sexual assault and harassment.

The College expanded its bystander intervention program, which enlists and trains members of the campus community. A related program focused on consent awareness.

Last year, New York Lt. 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. This fall, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul visited to discuss Gov. Andrew Cuomo's "Enough is Enough" campaign against sexual assault. The events were led by Union student athletes, members of Greek organizations.

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, Melissa Kelley, who reports to the President's Office. Her responsibilities include prevention and awareness education.

"We will continue efforts to ensure that Union is safe for everyone," President Ainlay said at opening convocation in 2015. "There is no place for sexual violence, abuse, or intimidation in this community."



*Union's first class of Posse Scholars, with President and Mrs. Ainlay, at a reception with Posse founder Deborah Bial, front right*

## Posse celebrates 10 years of campus leadership

When Union's first class of Posse Scholars arrived in Schenectady in 2006, their mentor took them into the dark of night to see the bright lights of their futures.

"At midnight, we spread out blankets on the lawn in front of Schaffer Library," said Maggie Tongue, director of the Scholars Program and Office of Post-Graduate Fellowships, "and imagined walking across the stage in their caps and gowns with their Posse."

"It goes to the heart of the purpose of Posse," Tongue said. "They maintain relationships with each other so they can all grow

independently, knowing their friends will be there for them. The most touching moments have come in times when they supported each other."

With the strength of their friends behind them, this graduating class of Posse Scholars left a lasting imprint on Union. And so are those following in their footsteps. Every year since 2006, the College has admitted a new Posse.

"These students are chosen for their leadership abilities, their skills and motivation. As such, they've made positive changes in the way campus organizations they've

joined are run," said Tongue.

"The model of a group of students supporting each other socially and academically is used in many places at Union—Posse serves as an example of how to make the most of our learning environment."

The Posse Foundation was established in 1989 and has sites in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Washington D.C., and soon, Miami. It selects extraordinary young people with leadership potential who excel academically, but may be overlooked by the traditional college selection process.



*At Identity Dialogues, a safe and open forum*

## ID/DDD: Let's talk

This year, campus programs fostered conversations that ranged from collegial to contentious, all with the aim of sharing a range of perspectives. In Identity Dialogues, students covered topics such as cultural appropriation, skin color and LGBTQ identity all in a safe and open forum. In DDD, Dinner and Discussion Around Diversity, students explored spiritual and ethical questions from a variety of perspectives. Topics have included "What is forgiveness?" and "Is humanity inherently good or evil?"



## With new motto, we got all our sisters

The College this year modified its centuries-old motto to add the French word for "sisters."

Under the change, approved by the Board of Trustees, the motto reads *Sous les lois de Minerve nous devenons tous frères et sœurs* ("Under the laws of Minerva, we all become brothers and sisters").

The original French motto, *Sous les lois de Minerve nous devenons tous frères* ("Under the laws of Minerva we all become brothers"), was adopted shortly after Union's founding in 1795.

"We respect the tradition of the words carefully chosen by our original trustees, but it's important that those words now make explicitly clear that Union is a place of inclusion and a shared intellectual mission for all," said President Stephen C. Ainlay.

## HEED awards recognize commitment to diversity

For the fourth straight year, Union has been named a HEED award winner by *Insight Into Diversity*, a diversity-focused magazine in higher education. Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award winners are selected based on "exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives, and ability to embrace a broad definition of diversity on their campus."

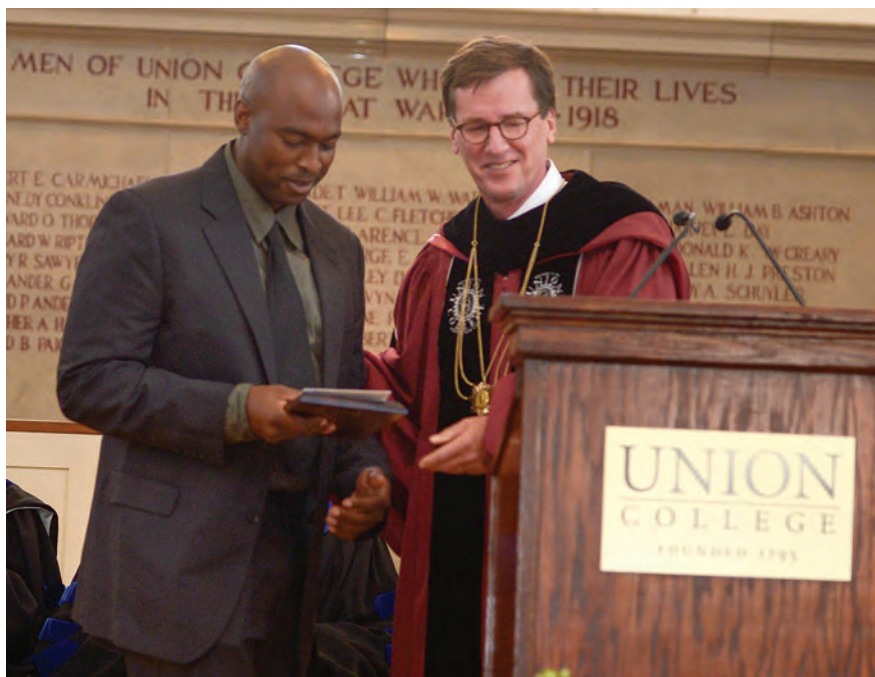
The College's commitment to diversity was the focus of a cover story in *Insight's* October 2016 issue, "Union College: Where Diversity Always Has a Seat at the Table."

Shortly after he became president in 2006, Ainlay created an Office of Campus Diversity and



Inclusion and an Office of Multicultural Affairs.

"Union is more inclusive than we have ever been before, but it has taken intentional work, strong leadership and strategic vision to create a campus climate where everyone can succeed," said Gretchel Hathaway, the College's chief diversity officer.



Jermaine Wells, Union's Learning Environments Services Coordinator, receives the UNITAS Community-Building Award at The annual award recognizes leadership of community and diversity.



*Hijab for a Day supported Islamic practices and sparked dialogue about religious and cultural customs.*

*Students, faculty and staff participate in the annual Pride Walk to celebrate the LGBTQ community*

# A SUSTAINABLE U

A woman with long dark hair, wearing sunglasses and a red and black plaid shirt, is smiling and hugging a large, golden-brown bale of straw. She is wearing a green beaded bracelet on her left wrist. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people and structures.

Sustainability of resources is a key element in our Strategic Plan. Today, the College's commitment to sustainability is promoted by three presidential initiatives and a range of student and campus initiatives.

## Presidential Initiatives

### **PATH TO CARBON NEUTRALITY**

In 2007, President Stephen C. Ainlay made the College a charter signatory of the Carbon Commitment (formerly ACUPCC, the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment), adopting a plan to cut emissions and provide research and education. The College has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2060. Last year, we achieved a 19 percent reduction.

### **SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (U-SUSTAIN)**

A committee of students, faculty and staff committed to educating the Union campus about ways to live, work and enjoy Union in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

### **PRESIDENTIAL GREEN GRANT PROGRAM**

Established in 2007, President Ainlay has funded a program that provides students, faculty and staff grants of up to \$2,000 each toward grassroots sustainability projects and environmental research.



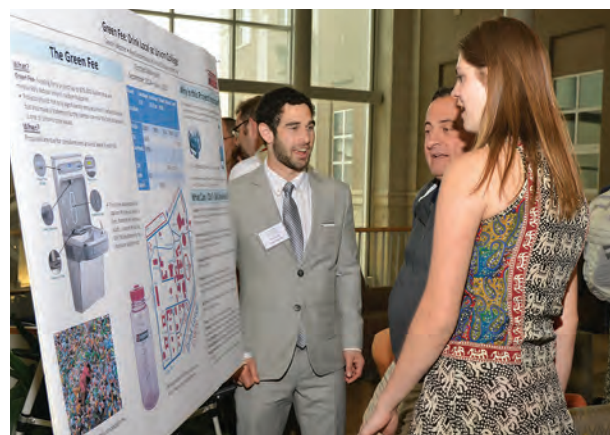
### **From Bees to Bottles: Students find support for sustainable projects**

#### **HOME SWEET HOME**

Emily Monac '18 this spring installed two hives of bees in a remote corner of campus. Her project was one of 15 supported this year by a Presidential Green Grant. As the bees pollinate the campus flora, their surplus honey will be used in campus dining.

#### **WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE**

Alex Dolcimascolo '17 and Devon Webster '17 used a grant from the Student Forum's Green Fee fund to support their project "Drink Local" that established water refill stations throughout campus. The program also provided incoming students with 32-ounce refillable bottles.



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# 2060

Year Union College  
has pledged to be  
carbon neutral

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### **A smaller footprint**

The College's new co-generation plant, which went online this fall, reduces Union's carbon footprint by about 40 percent. It provides clean power to campus, saves energy equal to the project debt service and uses waste energy for heating and cooling.

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# 19%

Reduction in carbon  
emissions in 2015

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## Growing, serving, recycling



### LOCAL DOESN'T GET ANY CLOSER THAN ON-CAMPUS

Since the first planting of Octopus's Garden in 2008, students have grown and harvested a variety of fruits and vegetables served at campus dining venues and distributed to local food charities. Much of the produce from Octopus's Garden is served at Ozone Café, the popular source for local, organic and healthy fare, which runs most Fridays during terms. Students assist with a comprehensive recycling program that reduces waste in residence halls and at campus events. Students also provide peer education and ensure proper waste disposal practices, including a food waste composting program.



### STUDENTS HOST ACTIVITIES AIMED AT FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE LIVING ON- AND OFF-CAMPUS.

- Arbor Day
- CDTA Bus Pass & Bike Repair Shop
- Clothing Swap
- Composting
- Do It In the Dark (energy conservation contest)
- Earth Week
- Environmental movie nights
- Neighborhood cleanups
- Orientation Green Team
- Ozone Café
- Ozone Theme House
- Participation in People's Climate March in New York City
- Participation in the Schenectady Green Market
- Recycle-mania
- Trash Audit
- Trips to local nature preserves

## With Zipcars, buses, bikes students are going places

Student Forum coordinated a program to make transportation more widely accessible, to ease campus parking and to help reduce carbon emissions. "Having Zipcar benefits students in many ways," said Student Forum President Ilan Levine '16. "First-years, international students and others without cars on campus now have access to two vehicles."

As for environmental impact, "Fewer personal cars on campus and more car sharing yields significant greenhouse gas emission reductions," said Meghan Haley-Quigley '11, Union's sustainability coordinator.

Student Forum also has organized a student bus pass program with CDTA slated to begin next year.



*Two new Zipcars have designated parking near West College, and students can register to use them any time.*



## Faculty effort drives installation of electric charging stations

The College's sustainability effort got a jump start this year with the installation of two electric vehicle charging stations that can power up to four electrics or hybrids at a time. The charging stations were promoted by several faculty members who developed a proposal for a Planning and Priorities grant. "Providing electric vehicle charging stations for our students, faculty and staff is an important opportunity to show that our commitment to sustainability extends beyond the campus gates," said Meghan Haley-Quigley, '11, manager of Sustainability and Green Initiatives



## 'Bike to work award'

Cyclists from the College have 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. The number of riders from Union represent a diverse mix of departments across campus and has continued to grow each year.

# STUDENT LIFE

## Outside the classroom

- All students belong to a Minerva House, seven lively hubs for academic, social, residential and leadership activities
- Students live on campus for their entire time at Union
- 13 student-run theme houses
- More than 100 campus clubs
- 10 residential fraternities and sororities; rush begins sophomore year
- Community service opportunities in Schenectady and beyond

## Minervas blend academics, culture and fun

Union's unique campus-wide Minerva House system blends academic, social and residential interests. All students and faculty are assigned to one of the seven houses, where the overstuffed couches beckon, and discussions on anything from Euclid to YouTube inspire lively debate. Many professors teach first-year preceptorials in their Minerva Houses, and some upperclass students live on the residential floors above the common areas. With a generous programming budget, the Minervas host hundreds of events each year, created and run by student house leaders.





*Liz Artz, director of fraternity and sorority life*

## Greek life invaluable to campus life

Fraternity and sorority life, which has a storied history dating back to 1825, is an invaluable part of the campus community. As the home of six founding fraternities and the "Union Triad," we are often recognized as the "Mother of Fraternities."

The fraternity and sorority life community at Union is comprised of the Interfraternity Council, the College Panhellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council, together representing 18 chapters. To support Greek life, the College in 2007 hired its first director of fraternity and sorority life. The office provides a resource for fraternities and sororities to engage with the Union and local communities, honor outstanding leadership, and recruit and retain membership.



*President and Mrs. Ainlay host fraternity and sorority leaders at their home.*

## Theme houses

Theme Houses provide intentional living and learning spaces, each one focused on a talent or interest of students, who live together to foster common passions and create a unique learning environment outside the classroom. At capacity, these houses accommodate 130 students who are selected through an application. Houses host at least three campus events per year. Themes have included arts, civil rights, volunteerism, Asian Studies, culinary arts and sustainability.



# A Union of Wellness



*A Tai Chi class at Henle Dance Pavilion*

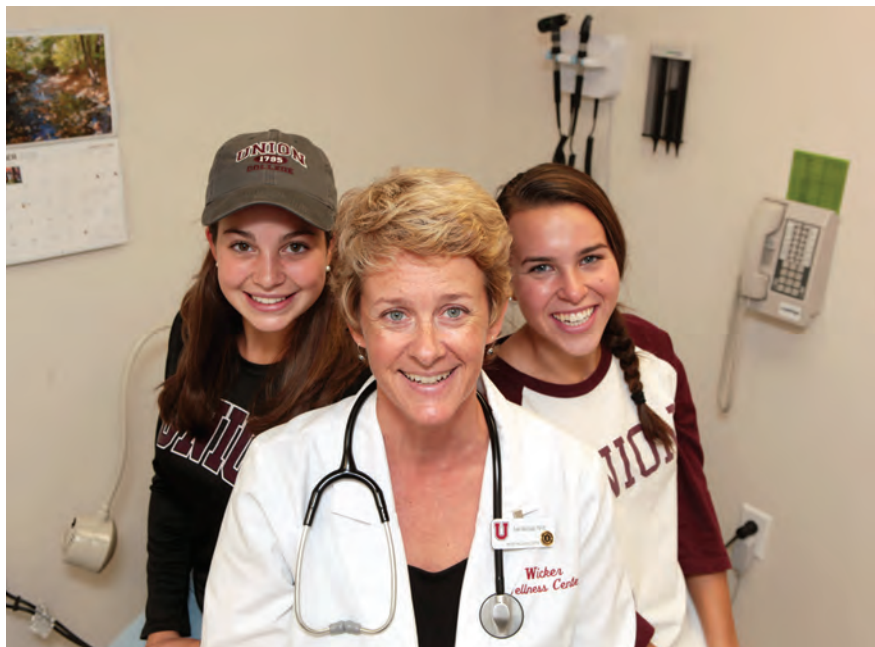
The College promotes wellness of body as well as mind, an important initiative made possible by a range of new facilities and programs.

*As part of the College's wellness initiatives, Union this year became a tobacco-free campus.*



## Breazzano Fitness Center

The Breazzano Fitness Center, opened in 2008 with a gift from David Breazzano '78, is part of the Alumni Gymnasium complex that includes cardio machines, weights, dance and fitness studios, racquet courts and the swimming and diving pool. It is also home base for the dozens of popular fitness classes offered to members of the Union community.



## Wicker Wellness Center

In 2013, the College dedicated the Wicker Wellness Center, a facility that makes Union an optimal learning environment that nurtures mind, body and spirit. The 6,600-square-foot two story building houses the Health Center and the Eppler-Wolff Center for Psychological Services. The lead gift came from trustee William M. Wicker '71 and his wife, Pamela. The center also was supported by Nancy Eppler-Wolff '75 and her husband, John H. Wolff.



# ATHLETICS



## UNION COLLEGE ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

The Union College Department of Athletics, Recreation, Intramurals and Wellness creates an integrated intellectual and athletic experience for our students. Pursuit of academic and competitive excellence, expectations of sportsmanship and ethical conduct, and commitment to the development of a diverse population of community and global-minded citizens, form the foundation of our athletics program. Union Intramural, Recreation and Wellness programs provide opportunities for broad-based participation through a wide array of offerings to Union faculty, staff, students and alumni that lead to a holistic and engaging experience that enriches the lives of members of our community.

## Athletics, recreation and wellness

- NCAA Division I ECAC Men's and Women's Ice Hockey. Compete against Brown, Colgate, Clarkson, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, RPI, St. Lawrence, Quinnipiac, and Yale
- NCAA Division III Liberty League in 24 sports. Compete against Bard, Clarkson, Hobart and William Smith, RIT, RPI, University of Rochester, St. Lawrence, Skidmore and Vassar
- A third of all students participate in intercollegiate sports
- Offers extensive intramural, recreation and wellness programs

## Hockey championship represents the Union story

Union's 2014 NCAA championship in men's ice hockey was more than a win on the ice. It was emblematic of the greater story we have to tell. Collaboration and teamwork, pride in accomplishment, a belief in something larger than ourselves and a recognition that we stand on the shoulders of giants who came before.

This story is told repeatedly by the 600 student-athletes from our 26 athletics programs. Besides benefitting from the obvious life lessons of athletics, our student-athletes generate a sense of pride in our campus, local and regional communities.



## Loya and Johnston cited for athletics, scholarship, service

Two women—Amy Loya '14 (left) and Ashley Johnston '14 (below)—stand as great examples of what's right with college athletics. Amy, a standout for women's basketball, was named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's Good Works Team. She was one of just five women recognized among all Div. II and III programs for her commitment to community service. Ashley, an ME major and captain of women's ice hockey, was one of four student athletes selected for the Final Four Innovation Summit, which showcased emerging leaders in dynamic industries such as sports medicine. Ashley was selected in part for her research using Union's 3D printing lab to develop a prosthetic leg for children.



## Union Olympians slide and skate

A student and a former coach competed in Sochi, Russia in February 2014 on the world's largest stage—the Olympics.

**Tucker West '17** (right) participated in the final day of the men's single luge. The Ridgefield, Conn. native finished 22nd overall, second for the U.S. He was the youngest American to make the Olympic men's luge team.

Also at the Sochi games with the U.S. women's hockey team, **Julie Chu** (below), former assistant women's hockey coach, added a fourth Olympic medal, a silver, to her collection. A veteran of Team USA, she has two other silvers (Salt Lake City in 2002 and Vancouver in 2010) and one bronze (Turin in 2006).



Luger Tucker West '17  
at the Sochi Olympics



## Habitat for Humanity

Women's soccer (above) and women's crew are among the many teams who have taken a break from late summer pre-season for a workout of a different kind. They are among the many sports teams that have helped Habitat for Humanity in building homes in nearby neighborhoods.

## Community service part of Union athletics culture



### Union Football

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 above, a program that gives disabled children the chance to play sports in a safe and friendly environment.



### Women's hockey

Women's ice hockey has an exceptional record of community service projects, including the holiday adopt-a-family event. Others have included Pink at the Rink, a benefit for cancer research; service programs with the Boys and Girls Club; and dozens of clinics for area youth hockey programs like the Bethlehem YMCA.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## College makes an impact in many ways

As an educational resource and cultural center for area residents, businesses and visitors, Union is a key contributor to the economy and culture of the city and region.

Almost \$300 million annually is infused into the community through direct spending, employment, construction and visitor impact, according to a 2013 report by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities.

The College embraces community service, based at the Kenney Community Center, where more than 400 students serve over 75 organizations ranging from afternoon homework sessions to a volunteer income tax prep program that secures more than \$4 million in refunds.



## Together for the Union community and beyond

### TOLL DAY

Each fall, hundreds of members of the Union community, including Greek organizations, student clubs and athletic teams pitch in to spruce up the city and surrounding area. Coordinated by Union's Kenney Community Center, John Calvin Toll Day strengthens Union's commitment to the city through volunteer opportunities.

### Campus fundraisers make a difference

#### DUTCHMEN DIP

In what has become an annual rite of (early) spring, members of various teams, Greek organizations and clubs take an icy plunge to benefit members of the Union community who are battling cancer.

#### HOMERUN DERBY

Student-athletes and other sluggers scored big in the fight against cancer in an annual homerun derby in honor of Justin Lloyd '16, a member of the baseball team who underwent chemotherapy. A recent event netted \$15,000 for the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center.



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400

Students at Toll Day 2016

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75

Organizations served



## Good Eats brings food and conversation

"Good Eats" is a collaboration in healthy cooking and meal preparation between the College and the Schenectady ARC, which offers a range of programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The event occurs each term, in conjunction with Kenney Community Center and the Minerva House program

## VITA program brings happy returns

The Kenney Community Center becomes tax central each spring as dozens of students help local residents with their tax forms. Union's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, which helps local families prepare their tax returns free of charge. Students have helped secure millions in state and federal refunds for hundreds of low-income families and seniors.



*Emanuel Ax*

## Concert series in 45th year

The Union College Concert Series, which this year celebrated its 45th anniversary, brings the world's finest chamber music to Memorial Chapel. The series regularly features such luminaries as Emanuel Ax, Jeremy Denk, the Emerson String Quartet and a number of rising artists. Under the directorship of Derek Delaney (with director emeritus Dr. Dan Berkenblit), the 16-date series is a popular draw for music fans across the region.

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# \$299,720,000

Total economic impact on the region

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*In the fall of 2006, students "tied the Nott" in a large pink bow to raise awareness, and funds, to fight breast cancer.*

---

# \$20,530,000

Student and visitor spending

---



*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.*

---

# 3,538

Alumni who live in the Capital Region

---

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# 19.8 million

Readers of *Sports Illustrated*  
on Union's hockey championship

---

---

# \$4,000,000

Union VITA tax refunds secured

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

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# \$130,000

Ticket sales for concert series

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# ACCOLADES

## UNION IN THE NEWS

Union's programs and people are frequently featured in national, international, regional and local media outlets. Among them, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *University Business*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *National Public Radio*, *U.S. News and World Report College Guide*, *U.S. News and World Report* and the *Associated Press*.



Union's Minerva system has been featured in a number of national media outlets.

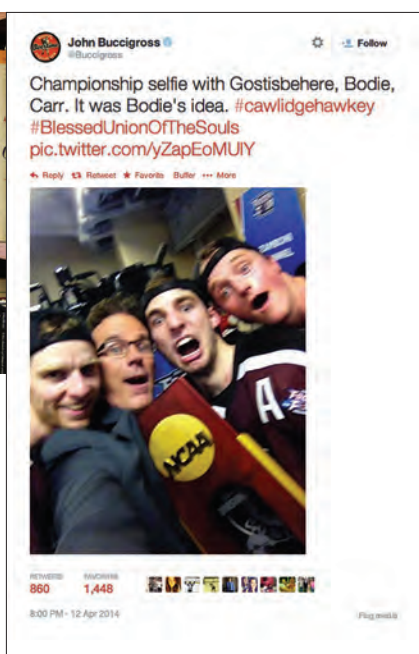
### Among the highlights:

- With campus visits increasingly rare, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* has come to Union six times for stories on the Minerva system, Ethics Across the Curriculum, the Liberal Arts and Engineering symposium, the Ramée Plan, "It's on Us" campaign and a profile of Union's former writer-in-residence.
- *Inside Higher Ed* has featured a number of Union experts, from faculty to admissions staff. It recently featured Valerie Barr, professor of computer science and chair of the Association for Computing Machinery Council on Women in Computing, who discussed Union's commitment to interdisciplinary computing. The article cited Union as a model for other computer education programs.
- *The New York Times* visited campus for a piece on the Minerva House system and the improving relationship between Schenectady and the College. The paper also featured research by Robert Olberg, professor of biology, on the cover of its popular ScienceTimes section.
- *The Associated Press*, the world's largest newsgathering service, mentioned the College's decision to modify its centuries-old motto to add the French word for "sisters," an exhibit marking the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and Lincoln's assassination and an \$11 million gift from the Feigenbaum Foundation. The stories were picked up by hundreds of media outlets around the world, including ABC News, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Huffington Post*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Albuquerque Journal* and the *Elkart Truth*.
- *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best Colleges" rankings book in 2014 and 2015 featured Linda Parker, director of financial aid. Parker also shared her expertise with the AP about a new federal rule that requires colleges to post net-price calculators on their Web sites. The story appeared in dozens of media outlets, including ABC News, *New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Huffington Post*. In addition, Parker was quoted in a front-page story in *USA Today*, the nation's largest newspaper, about the new tool.



Prof. Clifford Brown was widely covered for his book about Solomon Northup.

- The *Wall Street Journal* featured the College's celebration of the 150th anniversary of Taps, which originated with Daniel Butterfield, a member of Union's Class of 1849.
- Clifford Brown, the Robert Porter Patterson Professor of Government, was featured on NPR's Weekend Edition, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Wall Street Journal* and other outlets for his biography of Solomon Northup, the subject of the Oscar-winning *12 Years a Slave*.
- The popular BBC science documentary series "Horizons" visited campus to feature a study by Christopher Chabris, associate professor of psychology.
- The men's hockey team's historic run to the national title generated more than 1,000 articles and



stories in hundreds of international, national and regional media outlets. This included major features by the *Associated Press*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated*, *ESPN*, *Bloomberg News* and appearances in nine of the top 10 newspapers by circulation in the country.

A Texas research company ranked Union among the top 10 of the most referenced liberal arts schools appearing in the global media. The Global Language Monitor ranked the schools on how often they appear in the global print and electronic media, on the Internet, blogosphere and social networking sites.

The College's media relations efforts have been recognized nationally. The office has received four Accolades awards in the last six years from the Council for the Advancement of Secondary Education (CASE) in the category of Excellence in News Writing.

## Sports Illustrated

Among the College's more unusual media placements, *Sports Illustrated* noted the College's hosting of Haiku North America, the largest and oldest gathering of haiku poets, in Peter King's weekly popular column, Monday Morning Quarterback. The item included a guest contribution from the co-chair of the conference, ending of course, with a haiku.

## What they say about Union

For many decades, Union has consistently been ranked among the top 50 liberal arts colleges in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual "Best Colleges" list. Here are some additional rankings:

No. 38

Best National  
Liberal Arts Colleges

Top 25

National Undergraduate  
Engineering Programs  
accredited by ABET

*U.S. News & World Report*

No. 11

Liberal Arts Colleges  
Whose Graduates  
Earn the Most

*Forbes*

No. 19

Best Value  
Liberal Arts Colleges

PayScale.com

No. 5

Top STEM (science,  
technology, engineering or  
math) schools for women

*USA Today College Guide 2017*

Top 20

Liberal Arts Colleges  
Where Grads  
Earn the Most

*Money Magazine, 2016*

No. 16

Best Alumni Network

No. 10

Featured School,  
Colleges That Pay  
You Back

No. 6

Most Popular Study  
Abroad Program

No. 10

Best Science Lab  
Facilities

No. 6

Best Health Services

.....  
Named to the President's  
Higher Education  
Community Service Honor  
Roll for exemplary service  
to the local community

*The Princeton Review*

Top 10

Among peer institutions for  
the dollar amount of active  
National Science Foundation (NSF) grants

Union Office of Foundation, Corporate & Government Relations

AMONG  
The Hidden Ivies:  
63 of America's  
Top Liberal Arts  
Colleges and  
Universities

Greene's Guides, 2016

Top 20

Small and Mighty  
Campuses of Excellence

Hillel: The Foundation  
for Jewish Campus Life

97 Percentile

Value Added to Graduates

The Brookings Institution

AMONG the top colleges  
or universities in the  
nation with the most  
eco-friendly policies  
and greatest commitment  
to sustainability

*The Princeton Review's 2016  
Guide to 353 Green Colleges*

AMONG  
The  
100 Best  
American  
Universities

StartClass.com

TOP U.S. Student  
Fulbright producer

Fulbright U.S. Student  
Program, 2015-16

# Leadership of the College

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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of the State of New York, *Ex-officio*

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