

Dear Friend of Union –

It is my privilege to report – for the last time as chairman – on the highlights of the Board of Trustees spring 2015 meeting, held during a spectacular ReUnion weekend that featured a record turnout of alumni, the dedication of a building that has transformed campus, a leadership transition on the Board and news that Union has never been stronger.

In a word, Karp Hall is a...“Wow.” On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the former Humanities Building, one of the most heavily used on campus, the building just got a new lease on life as Karp Hall, with 37 offices, 10 classrooms, a lobby, faculty lounge and student alcoves. Since it opened in January, Karp has been a magnet for students and faculty alike.

We are indebted to the Karp family for their generous support of this important project. Trustee Douglass Karp '97 said it perfectly: “We believe that our investment in Union is a great one and will inspire students for years to come.” Doug was joined at the dedication ceremony by his sister, Jana '99, and their parents, Jill and Stephen. It was a wonderful event.

The Board has elected my friend and fellow trustee, John E. Kelly III, (from the “Great” class of 1976, I might add) as the next Chair of the Board of Trustees. John, the senior vice president and director of research for IBM Corp., assumed the chairmanship July 1. He was the vice chairman of the board. David L. Henle '75 was elected vice chairman. I am pleased that John and Dave, both long and loyal supporters of Union, have taken on these important roles. John, David and the rest of his executive committee take over a school with incredible momentum and leadership. But they, and the rest of the board, know that we cannot become complacent and must stay energetic and forward-leaning in all of our endeavors. I am positive they will do that, and proud to see this new chapter as they step up to work with President Ainlay and the team.

The College recently hosted several programs aimed at fostering inclusion and diversity. The Presidential Forum on Diversity hosted Rob King, vice president of ESPN, who spoke about how storytellers can “color” stories based on their experience. His appearance was part of our theme of Diversity in the Media. We also hosted a number of events connected to the “It’s on Us” campaign and our Bystander Intervention Program, which are aimed at preventing sexual assault. In May, we hosted U.S. Senator Kristen Gillibrand for a roundtable discussion about legislation she has proposed on this important issue.

More than 2,000 attended ReUnion, and many of those took part in an inspiring alumni convocation that further cemented our connection to Union. When Morgan Muggia '15 performed *Bridge Over Troubled Water* from the stage at Memorial Chapel, it reminded all of us that wherever life takes us there is always a bridge that comes back to Union.

The Alumni Council presented Alumni Gold Medals to David L. Henle '75, president of DLH Capital; Richard Crookes '65, who spent decades in financial management at GE; and Valerie J.

Hoffman '75, attorney and partner at Seyfarth Shaw. Cheryl Rockwood, head trainer and director of student athlete programming, received the Faculty Meritorious Service Award.

At our board meeting and at alumni-gathering venues around campus, I had the pleasure of reporting on the health of Union. To borrow a phrase from the lexicon of venture capital, everything is “up and to the right.” We have a balanced budget, with a positive forecast in our five-year models. We have record-high numbers in admissions applications and in the quality of our applicants. Our endowment is at an all-time high of \$435 million and outperforming many of our peer institutions. And alumni support has never been stronger – the unrestricted Annual Fund is on target for \$4.75 million, our one-day appeal – A Day4U – brought in more than \$1.1 million from 1,665 donors, and ReUnion giving totaled more than \$5.8 million.

This support is monumental, and not only because it helps Union to fulfill its mission as one of the nation’s premiere institutions. It is a vote of confidence that tells the world that we fully support our alma mater. I thank each and every one of you who participated.

For more on ReUnion, visit [here](#).

You can see a gallery of ReUnion photos [here](#).

This is a tremendous time for Union, and, I must admit, a slightly bittersweet one for me. I have relished my time as chair, and truly enjoyed working with President Ainlay and the all the Union faculty, staff, alumni and other teammates. Thanks to all of them for their collaboration and commitment. I look forward to helping my successors, and seeing you again on campus.

Go U!

Mark Walsh '76

Chair of the Board of Trustees