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William James Stillman, View of the town of Cutigliano, Tuscany, albumen print mounted in an album, 1880s. Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College. (Digital photographic reproduction by Frank Rapant). To learn more about Stillman, see pg. 62.
12 Retirement reinvented: Writing the next chapter
Alumni and friends share their stories of ‘rebirth’ after retirement. From a civil engineer turned wilderness photographer to a securities trader turned yoga instructor, these individuals prove once again that Union folks are nothing if not enterprising, curious and adaptable. Retirement, for them, has been a reinvention of self and life.

20 Behind the great leader: The story of Urania Nott
With Eliphalet Nott’s health failing, the president’s decisions were communicated almost exclusively through his wife and mentor, herself a proven administrator and pioneer of women’s education.

23 The internship: Key to after-college success
GPAs and extracurriculars aside, it seems that little matters more these days to a student’s post-collegiate prospects than an internship. Union students, alumni and staff know this all too well, and are doing everything in their power to take advantage of the benefits of internships.
A legacy of making a difference

STEPHEN C. AINLAY, Ph.D.

When issuing my “charge to graduates” each year at Commencement, I enjoy recounting the accomplishments of the senior class. Students are inspired by their collective accomplishments. The Class of 2014, while exceptional in its own right, is part of a long Union College legacy of making a difference, what Union’s first president John Blair Smith called leading a “useful life.”

The Class of 2014 made us laugh, think and, at times, even gasp through dance, theatrical performances and documentary films. They presented impressive research at the Steinmetz Symposium on topics ranging from the development of adjustable prosthetic devices to the impact of student debt on the American economy.

The class brought home the first Liberty League Championship in baseball and led the lacrosse program to new levels with a trip to the NCAA playoffs. They brought volleyball to the finals for the Liberty League Championship and led women’s soccer team to its 18th consecutive winning season. They clinched All-American honors in swimming. And, of course, they thrilled us on the ice, winning a national hockey championship.

Members of the Class of 2014 earned national recognition for their academic prowess with Watson Fellowships, Minerva Fellowships and Fulbrights. They have been recognized as the best of student-citizen-athletes, named to the Good Works Team, and selected as Academic All-Americans. Their powers of argument took them to the regional and national levels in the Ethics Bowl competition.

The Class of 2014 helped raise a one-day record in financial support for the College during ADay4U. They helped others succeed through tutoring work in our Supplemental Instruction Program. They helped Union develop a novel advising tool—Notice-Choose-Tell—that will benefit future generations of students. They’ve improved the well-being of many by staffing dental clinics and food banks. They raised funds to battle cancer.

Like generations of alumni before them, they have accomplished much because they have a generosity of spirit, a commitment and the strong belief that they can make a difference in their families, their communities, their country and their world.

I also like to remind our graduating seniors that their academic lineage is a great one. It beckons them to make a difference. Indeed, many of those who’ve crossed the Commencement stage before them have made a difference in their families, their places of work, their communities, their nation, and even the world.

In this issue, we will consider other members of the Union community who have made a difference. Among them, Dr. Orel Friedman ‘35, was a prominent physician who reinvented himself in retirement as an advocate for the aging. His story and others of rebirth in retirement offer inspiration. Urania Nott, the third wife of Eliphalet Nott, is not accorded the space in history of her husband. But she had an enormous impact as an early proponent of women’s education. And in Nott’s later years, she was instrumental in advancing the president’s vision for Union. The display of Charles Steinmetz’s electric car in the corridor between Olin and the Wold Center reminds us of the remarkable difference this great person made to Union and to the world at large. The Global Public Health Symposium with alumni participants and the talk by Dr. Loc T. Le ’84 offered compelling evidence of Union’s contributions to public health. You will read a fascinating account of William James Stillman, Class of 1848, by Prof. David Ogawa of Visual Arts. Stillman personified the principles of the liberal arts by being a wide-ranging and engaged lifelong learner. And in doing so, he too made a difference.

You will also learn about some of the ways in which today’s Union is shaping students who are poised to make a difference. You will, for example, learn about the importance of internships, how the study of tree rings is increasing their global climate knowledge, and the lasting impact that the Steinmetz Symposium has had on students and our entire community.

Yes, the academic lineage of Union is a great one.
Tell us what you’re up to

Have you changed jobs, gotten promoted, had a baby, taken an amazing trip, retired or gotten married? Share your news with us through a class note. Photos 1 MB or larger are welcome too. The deadline for the winter magazine is Nov. 1.

Please share at:
classnotes@union.edu
Union College magazine
807 Union St.
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308
(518) 388-6490

There’s more Union College online!

Our first NCAA Division I men’s ice hockey trophy has been all over. Want to see a photo gallery and find out where? Learn more about Phil Chorba ‘05 and his acting career, or see fantastic pictures of Abigail Adsit ’09 and the thoroughbred race horses she trains? Or maybe you want to see more fabulous art by William James Stillman, Class of 1848. It’s all at www.union.edu/magazine

See Union on YouTube

The College’s YouTube channel is bursting with great video content from your alma mater. Learn about the differences students and alumni are making in the world, watch Commencement 2014 speakers deliver their remarks, or enjoy seeing the men’s hockey team win the NCAA Division I national championship all over again. It’s all at www.youtube.com/unioncollege

Nominate Union’s next Alumni Trustee

Know an alumnus or alumna who would be an asset to our Board of Trustees? Nominate them for the position of Alumni Trustee. The four-year term runs July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2019. Please submit your nomination to the Alumni Council. Send your name, address, email and phone number to alumni@union.edu, along with a one-page nomination describing the candidate’s involvement with the College and why they would be a good candidate for our Board. Any alumnus or alumna may run as a petition candidate. Petitions signed by 50 alumni must be received in the Alumni Office by Feb. 1, 2015, along with a bio and personal statement. Contact the Alumni Office for more information at alumni@union.edu or by calling (518) 388-6168.
Class of 2014 honored at 220th Commencement

Dr. Deborah L. Birx gives Commencement address

David Masterson ’14 peered out at 500 of his classmates at the 220th Commencement on June 15 and spoke of the challenges and possibilities that await.

“The beautiful thing about this moment is the tantalizing sense of possibility,” said Masterson, a theater major with a minor in history from Clifton Park, N.Y. “We have spent our four years discovering what moves and inspires us, and now we are poised to share ourselves with the world.

Annie Dunbar Potts Perkins, after whom Mrs. Perkins Garden is named, is celebrated for her historic contributions to Union in April with a garden tea party.

For more detailed campus news, visit www.union.edu/news
“Our challenge is to carry this spirit of community and this energy of possibility wherever we go. No matter how much we succeed, our road will also be riddled with pain, frustration and failure. In those moments of doubt, think back to your time at Union and remember this beautiful spirit of hope.”

The featured speaker was Dr. Deborah L. Birx, a renowned international expert in the field of HIV/AIDS. Appointed earlier this year by President Obama as an ambassador-at-large and U.S. Global AIDS coordinator, she shared with graduates the deadly impact of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the developing world in the late 1990s.

While hospitals were overwhelmed by the volume of people dying at an alarming rate, access to antiretroviral treatment available in the U.S. was non-existent.

“AIDS was truly wiping out a generation of individuals,” said Birx, who received an honorary doctorate of science degree.

As the first woman to hold the post of U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Birx oversees the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) within the U.S. Department of State. She also manages the U.S. relationship with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the world’s largest public health financier.

The work of those organizations and others has helped slow the death rate from HIV/AIDS dramatically, and new infections are down 50 percent from its peak more than a decade ago.

“HIV infection is no longer a death sentence,” said Birx, whose visit was part of the College’s focus on wellness this year.

Also receiving an honorary doctorate of science was Morris E. Fine, the Walter P. Murphy Professor Emeritus of Materials Science and Engineering in Service at Northwestern University. Fine is known for his contributions to the field of physical metallurgy, and his 1964 book, *Introduction to Phase Transformations in Condensed Systems*, is considered a classic in the field.

In his charge to the graduates, President Stephen C. Ainlay commended the class for its impressive list of academic, community and athletic accomplishments, from the Watson and Fulbright fellowships to the baseball team’s first league championship and of course, the men’s hockey team’s NCAA Division I national championship “that even had opponents cheering.”

He reminded the class of the mark they left and the belief that they can make a difference outside of the campus gates.

“I have tried to remind you throughout your four years here that with the opportunities Union has given you comes responsibility: responsibility to make a difference,” Ainlay said. “You are well on your way but keep at it. Believe that you are needed and believe that you are equipped to make the difference that your families, your communities, your workplaces, your country, your world needs.”

Two members of the Class of 2014 received special recognition: Class valedictorian Elliot Feld, a biology and music interdepartmental major from Centerport, N.Y, and salutatorian Catherine Ziac, an economics major with a minor in Russian from Niskayuna, N.Y.

For more on Commencement, including pictures, visit www.union.edu/news
ReUnion 2014 hits all the right notes

It didn’t take long for Trustee Kelly Williams ’86 to understand the special nature of a Steinway grand piano she and her husband, Andrew Forsyth, donated to the College.

“The light in her eyes, the smile on her face, when she talked to me about the piano, was extraordinary,” Williams said of meeting with Diane McMullen, professor and chair of the Music Department.

“The longevity of a gift like this and the number of people it touches...it’s really such a blessing to give this gift.”

The dedication of the remarkable instrument was one of the highlights at ReUnion. More than 1,500 visitors were on campus to enjoy traditional activities such as the Alumni Parade, the fireworks display and the Gala Dinner.

It was a chance for recent graduates Jeremy Fritzhand ’10 and older alumni like Len Humphrey ’49 to bask in their Union experience.

“It’s good to see my old classmates, it’s a big thing, seeing my old friends,” said Humphrey, who attended with his daughter, Elizabeth Cornell. “And, I’m looking forward to showing Elizabeth the gardens.”

This year’s Family Picnic and Kids Carnival also featured members of the NCAA Division I National Championship men’s hockey team, who greeted visitors and posed for pictures with the trophy.

In addition, Engineering Alumni Awards were presented to alumni who are working as dynamic leaders and who show a commitment to their profession and community:

Thomas Welles ’79 (Gold Award—Electrical Engineering), Carla Jimenez ’04 (Silver Award—Electrical Engineering), Andrew Vesey ’78 (Gold Award—Mechanical Engineering), Malysa Cheng ’09 (Silver Award—Mechanical Engineering), Daniel Feldman ’99 (Gold Award—Computer Engineering), and Nickolas Potvin ’09 (Silver Award—Computer Engineering).

At Alumni Convocation, the Alumni Council presented Alumni Gold Medals to Dr. Donald Bentrovato ’69, a retired genitourinary surgeon; Robert Danziger ’89, managing director of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.; and Dr. Seymour Thickman ’44, a physician who worked for the Veteran’s Administration Hospital at Fort McKenzie (Wyoming). Clifford Brown, the Robert Porter Patterson Professor of Government, received the Faculty Meritorious Service Award.

For a ReUnion photo gallery, visit www.facebook.com/unioncollege

Kelly Williams ’86 and husband Andrew Forsyth sit at the Steinway grand piano they donated.

Mat Bodie and other members of the national championship men’s hockey team greeted guests at the Family Picnic and Kids Carnival.

Photographer Tiana Markova-Gold and writer Sarah Dohrmann present a reading and slideshow based on their work, “Scenes et Types,” documenting the lives of sex workers in Morocco and exploring the complex nature of choices Moroccan women face.

Union holds its second annual Adirondack Week, celebrating the environmental and historical aspects of the Adirondack Park and the College’s relationship to it.
Shifting gears:  
A new home for Steinmetz car

When he wasn’t busy making major contributions in the field of alternating current systems, Charles Proteus Steinmetz, the great electrical engineer and inventor, liked to get around in a top-of-the-line 1914 “Duplex Drive Brougham” Detroit Electric automobile.

Although he stood just over 4 feet because of dwarfism and other physical deformities, Steinmetz cut quite a large figure in the all-aluminum vehicle with a top speed of 25 mph. Driven with a tiller rather than a steering wheel, the car runs on 14, six-volt batteries. It can drive approximately 30 miles on one battery charge.

Found rotting in a Glenville field 40 years after Steinmetz’s death in 1923, the car was purchased by the College in 1971. For the next 10 years, it was painstakingly restored by Union faculty and engineering students.

Used sparingly for campus ceremonies, the vehicle has been on display at a number of places, including the Saratoga Auto Museum and the Edison Tech Center. Mostly, it has been stored in off-campus garages.

To help celebrate Steinmetz’s 149th birthday, the College christened the car’s new permanent display in the first-floor corridor between the Wold Center and F.W. Olin building in April.

“Until today, it never had a permanent home on campus where it could be appreciated,” said John Spinelli, the Horace E. Dodge III Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and host of the ceremony. Spinelli and driver Gene E. Davison, a lab manager in Electrical and Computer Engineering, are two of the car’s biggest champions.

Steinmetz taught electrical engineering and applied physics at Union. He was also chief consulting engineer for the General Electric Company. Steinmetz became so enamored with electric vehicles that he founded the Steinmetz Electric Car Co. in 1917.

Referring to Steinmetz as a remarkable figure in the College’s history, President Stephen C. Ainlay said one of the nation’s leading electrical engineers should remind people of the DNA of Union.

“That DNA is the notion of audacity,” said Ainlay. “The audacity to imagine what's possible. To imagine the future in ways that benefit so many people. Steinmetz had a remarkable ability to change the world.”

The ceremony also featured the Camerata Singers, under the direction of John Cox, leading the audience, which included Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy and a representative of GE, in a spirited version of “Happy Birthday” to the man who held over 200 patents.

And in an ode to Steinmetz’s penchant for throwing one back and enjoying a Blackstone paratela cigar, the musical group performed “Ale and Tobacco” by Thomas Ravenscroft, published in 1614.

“I doubt that a car has ever been serenaded quite that way before,” Spinelli said.
across campus

Steinmetz Symposium: A robust day for research

As a lab technician in the Collaborative Design Studio, Kadeam Vendryes ’15 is used to speaking to tour groups going through the Peter Irving Wold Center about the new Stratasys Connex 500.

More commonly known as a 3D printer, the machine and its captivating capabilities is an endless source of questions deftly handled by Vendryes.

Yet he admits he was a little nervous as he, along with Joshua Fields ’15, prepared for their first large-scale presentation about the machine.

“I’ve been working on this since the beginning of winter term,” said Fields, a mechanical engineering major from Queens, N.Y. of a machine that has created custom-fit patches for dragonfly eyes during prey tracking experiments and tiny saddles which fit over the thorax of a grasshopper, among other research projects.

“This symposium is a great event to see all of the wonderful opportunities here at Union,” Vendryes was among hundreds of students, faculty and parents who fanned out across campus on May 9 to celebrate undergraduate research in the 24th annual Steinmetz Symposium.

More than 400 students participated in this year’s event, which featured oral and poster presentations as well as a dance performance, musical concerts, an art exhibit and other activities.

“Many faculty and staff say that Steinmetz is their favorite day of the year. It is a day of community where we all get to share in the achievements of our students in the academic sphere,” said Kristin Fox, associate professor of chemistry and director of undergraduate research.

Hands-on, faculty-mentored undergraduate research is a staple of the Union experience.

One student who wanted to share his project was Troy Grosenick ’14. The former goaltender for the men’s hockey team, Grosenick left Union after his junior year last year to sign an entry-level contract with the NHL’s San Jose Sharks, but completed his coursework in November and walked with his class at Commencement.

“If there was any way I could come back and present at Steinmetz, I wanted to do it,” he said.

An economics major, the Wisconsin native presented on a topic close to his heart: “Money Puck: The Effectiveness of Statistical Analysis in Building an NHL Team.”

Using a number of case studies, he showed how the path to a Stanley Cup may be easier by signing a collection of lesser-known players at a lower cost than signing a single star player to a multi-million dollar contract.

More than 70 performers also took the stage in the Nott Memorial for the Lothridge Festival of Dance to share their talents in all styles of dance.

The Kelly Adirondack Center’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act is more than a commemoration of the milestone legislation that protected more than 9 million acres of Federal wilderness. It is a progress report on programs at the Kelly Adirondack Center.

Alison Curley ’16 and Troy Williams ’17 are honored by the Schenectady Silhouettes with the Marshall G. Jones Scholarship for their community service and academic achievement.
Meet the beetles: Pinewood Elementary School students visit campus to learn how beneficial insects protect the College’s landscape. Each year, tens of thousands of ladybugs are released across campus to devour aphids and other destructive herbivorous pests.

Fine art bronze works dedicated at Henle Dance Pavilion

Members of the Union community and guests of the Steiner family of Pacific Palisades, Calif., gathered at the Henle Pavilion to dedicate two fine art limited edition bronze works in June.

Leslie and David Steiner with their daughters, Courtney ‘12 and Rachel ‘14

Leslie and David Steiner donated “The Shade” and “Age of Bronze” sculptures in honor of their daughters, Courtney ‘12 and Rachel ‘14.

The art works, on display in Foster Atrium, were cast from a genuine studio plaster using the cire perdue (lost wax) method. Each bronze bears the stamped signature of 19th century French sculptor Rodin, as well as the seal of the publisher (Bronze Masters International) and foundry (Atelier Elliot Gantz Foundry in Farmingdale, N.Y.).

Each is from an edition of 25 with five artist’s proofs, signed and numbered by the foundry.

“The Shade” is part of Rodin’s The Gates of Hell, which was inspired by Dante’s The Divine Comedy. The original studio plaster was created circa 1886.

The pieces are part of the College’s Permanent Collection, whose holdings include such internationally renowned artists as Francisco Goya, Lee Krasner, Édouard Manet, Jean-François Millet, Francesco Piranesi, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella and Andy Warhol.

“These are two spectacular pieces by one of the best-known artists who has ever done sculpture,” said President Stephen C. Ainlay. “If you are going to start a sculpture tradition, this is about the best way you could ever do it. They are a reminder of not only what Union has meant to the Steiner family, but also what the Steiner family has meant to Union.”
Students receive prestigious honors

During the recent academic year, Union students clinched a variety of impressive honors. Among them are:

**Watson Fellowships**
Shiqing “Licia” He ’14 and Sean Day ’14 are the latest Union students to be awarded a prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. They each received a $28,000 stipend to cover a year of independent study and travel outside the U.S. Day’s project is titled “What Moves You: Exploring the Value of Human Motion Through Cultural Perceptions of Disabilities.” He’s project concerns “The Fading Color: Learning and Documenting Natural Dye Production around the Globe.”

For more on the Watson Fellows, visit www.union.edu

**Minerva Fellows**
Eleven recent graduates are the College’s next Minerva Fellows. They will travel the globe to work in developing countries while paired up with a social entrepreneurial organization. The fellows and their destinations are:

- Gabriella Romero ’14 and Samantha Muratori ’14, Estero de Platano, Ecuador
- Ilyena Kozain ’14 and William Phillips ’14, Dgeye Village, Uganda
- Forrister Ross ’14 and Danielle Lussier ’14, Jinan, China
- Samantha Wynn ’14 and Miriam Hammer ’14, Bagru, India
- Joseph Maher ’14, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Rahul Puttagunta ’14, Johannesburg, South Africa

For more on the Minerva Fellows, visit www.union.edu

**WBCA Goods Works Team**
Amy Loya ’14 was a recipient of the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Good Works Team award. She is one of just five women’s basketball players selected from all institutions in NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and the NAIA throughout the United States. This community service honor recognizes college basketball players who have made a commitment to improving their communities and the lives of others.

To learn more, visit www.unionathletics.com

**University Innovation Fellow**
Hristina Milojevic ’15 was named a University Innovation Fellow by the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation (Epicenter). A mechanical engineering major, she joins a network of 110 fellows from 78 schools nationwide in a program designed to empower engineering student-leaders to foster more entrepreneurial activity on their campuses.

To learn more, visit www.union.edu

**Entrepreneurial Spirit Scholarship**
Ashley Johnston ’14 is one of two area college students who received the first scholarship for entrepreneurial spirit from Albany, N.Y. software firm CommerceHub. Johnston was recognized with the $5,000 award, in part, because of her senior project—development of a prosthetic foot for children that is adjustable as the children grow. Johnston will pursue a master’s in biomedical engineering at RPI.

To learn more, visit http://www.bizjournals.com/albany/ and search “Ashley Johnston”
College hosts Presidential Forum on Diversity lecture, Global Public Health & Wellness Symposium

The College hosted a symposium on careers in public health and wellness on April 25 and 26. Titled ‘The Global Public Health and Wellness Symposium: Pursuing your Passion,’ the event was the centerpiece of the Presidential Forum on Diversity’s focus on global public health and wellness.

Members of the campus community and in particular, students, had the opportunity to hear from leading experts, including Union alumni, from government, the private sector, academe and non-governmental organizations.

Events kicked off with an address from Dr. Loc T. Le ’84, a leading researcher in Hepatitis B. The presentation is titled, “Public Health: A Personal Journey — From Local to Global.” Dr. Le ’84 has devoted his life to the prevention of Hepatitis B, particularly among high-risk populations.

The symposium also showcased their research and health and wellness related projects.

Following that, a panel discussion focused on careers and opportunities in health and wellness-related fields in the U.S. and overseas. Panelists included Daniel Aronzon ’69, Kimberly Kilby ’00 and Dapo Akinleye ’02.

Dr. Aronzon ’69 is a leading pediatrician and former president and CEO of Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Dr. Kilby ’02 is the assistant dean for Undergraduate Medical Education at Albany Medical College in Albany, NY, where she oversees the clinical portions of the medical school curriculum. Akinleye is a research scientist for the NYS Department of Health and the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology.

The symposium was jointly sponsored by the Presidential Forum on Diversity and the Professor Frederick A. Klemm & Eleanor G. Klemm Fund for International Study and Service.

After Mitt Romney was defeated by President Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election, some political pundits tried to pin the loss in part on Hurricane Sandy. A study by Josh Hart, assistant professor of psychology, finds the storm’s influence was a wash.

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• A CGA is a gift to Union and therefore qualifies you for an immediate income tax deduction
• A portion of each annuity payment may be income tax free
• Most importantly, your gift helps Union achieve its long-term goals

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Based on a $25,000 cash gift using the IRS discount rate of 2.2% for June 2014.
Writing the next chapter

BY CHARLIE CASEY

Over the past few months, we put out the call for stories from alumni and friends who had reinvented themselves in retirement. The returns were interesting, amusing, inspiring and gratifying. And perhaps not surprisingly, the stories proved once again that Union folks are adaptable, wide ranging, enterprising, charitable, curious, engaged ... you get the idea.

With our thanks, herewith are accounts from a few of our retirement reinventors. Since the stories quickly outgrew our available pages, we’ve posted lots more on-line. Read them at www.union.edu/magazine
If, as the saying goes, “Life begins at retirement,” many Union folks have been reborn.

Take Rick Sheremata ’70, who retired as a civil engineer in South Florida to become a wilderness photographer in Montana.

Or Thomas Flynn ’79, who after 25 years as a producer and writer at CBS News, published an epic poem and now a play based on his experiences during the Sept. 11 attacks in New York City.

Or Phyllis Budka M’82, who went from a career as a technical writer to a retirement in which she is discovering her Eastern European roots.

Or Dr. Orel Friedman ’35, who at 66 was forced into retirement from medicine by a visual disability. Now 100, he has spent his “retirement” as a tireless advocate for geriatric care and patient rights.
Dr. Orel Friedman ’35

Dr. Orel Friedman, a respected ear, nose and throat specialist in Glens Falls, N.Y. wasn’t planning to retire. But when he developed double vision at 66, he had no choice. “It was the low point of my life,” he recalls. But not one to gravitate toward self-pity, he immersed himself in every book he could find in the local library about retirement and gerontology. He spoke with medical colleagues. And he took college classes, attended seminars nationwide and interned at a gerontology center in Florida.

By the early 1980’s, he had transformed himself into a counselor, advocate, writer, speaker and consultant to geriatric care providers. He was at least a decade ahead of national trends in end-of-life care and patient rights, which he recalls “were handled abysmally at that time.”

At 100, he is a popular resident of the Glen at Hiland Meadows, a senior residence in Queensbury, N.Y. where a fellow resident and longtime friend, Sunny Buchman, describes him as a role model.

He has authored two books, Eighteen by Thirteen, a crime novel in which he collaborated with 12 other seniors through a Florida writer’s workshop, and A Doctor Retires—Is There Life After Medicine (see excerpt in sidebar).

At Union, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity and Phi Beta Kappa. Union relatives include his late brother, M. Leo Friedman ’42, and a nephew, Roger Friedman ’72. After Union, he earned his medical degree from Albany Medical College, and a master’s in medical science for graduate work in otolaryngology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Friedman is modest in talking about the success of his own retirement. But Buchman is quick to note that he has stayed engaged as a learner and teacher, traveled as much as possible (At 90, he traveled alone to visit family in Israel.) and taken care of himself.

Dr. Friedman puts it simply: “I made lemonade out of a lemon.”

Charlie Plesums

Charlie Plesums, who was Union’s first director of the computer center and started about a half dozen courses in computing, went on to direct computer centers at the University of Virginia, Temple University and Trinity University. He joined USAA in San Antonio, Texas, in 1982 to lead the Advanced Technology group and develop large scale document imaging that became an IBM product. In 1995, he joined CSC to consult for insurance companies nationwide on document imaging.

THE ANTICIPATION OF ANOTHER DAY

Nine years ago, at 91, Dr. Orel Friedman published A Doctor Retires—Is There Life After Medicine? (Xlibris, 2005). Following is an excerpt:

Twenty-five years after a forced retirement from the practice of medicine and a bleak period in my life, my review of these years puts me in an exhilarating positive mood. Had I been able to continue in my practice and planned my future retirement, there would have been the motivation and incentive to become the person that I know I am. Nor in all humility would I have gained the respect and admiration with which others look upon me and my life.

Yes, there is life after medicine, and it can be satisfying and happy.

My life has been built on a tripod: 1) I picked my parents very carefully; 2) I made a fantastic choice of a wife; and 3) I had enough sense “not to spit in my well.”

As a result, these later years are the frosting on a delicious cake that represents an amazing adventure for a young boy who

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Charlie Plesums, who was Union’s first director of the computer center and started about a half dozen courses in computing, went on to direct computer centers at the University of Virginia, Temple University and Trinity University. He joined USAA in San Antonio, Texas, in 1982 to lead the Advanced Technology group and develop large scale document imaging that became an IBM product. In 1995, he joined CSC to consult for insurance companies nationwide on document imaging.

A lifelong hobby woodworker, he switched from kitchen cabinets to furniture in 1997. People who saw his work often asked, “can you make one of those for me?” In 2005, at 62, he “retired” to a full-time business of woodworking. And in keeping with his computer past, he started a woodworking website that averages 12,000 visits per month. For more, see: www.solowoodworker.com

Peter Milsky retired in 2004 after practicing dentistry on Cape Cod for 34 years. Besides tennis and acting/directing (he has been involved in over 100 amateur theater productions on the Cape), he was looking for something to fill his time. He, wife, always artistic, had a long interest in stained glass and had taken classes in fused glass and jewelry. Peter followed suit and together they started a business on the Cape making fused glass wire wrapped jewelry—Rose Colored Glasses (www.rcgjewelry.com)—that sells to galleries in New England and at craft shows on Cape Cod. “I always felt that dentistry had a lot of art involved as well as science and this has given me a chance to pursue my artistic side,” the former dentist said. “We have been in business for about 10 years and while we do not make a living from our business it gives us an income for travel and fun. If anyone told me I would be a jeweler after retirement I would never have believed them but it has been fun starting and running a small two-person business.”

Dan Mead’s career included 15 years as a teacher, coach and administrator; and another 20 as a psychotherapist, hospice consultant and school counseling consultant. In retirement, he wanted something more. So he turned to two passions that were nurtured but never fully realized until retirement in 2003: travel and photography.

Step one: spend six months wandering New Zealand with a camera, an adventure that yielded 10,000 images.

“I had spent the 15 years in education speaking a lot, 20 years of psychotherapy listening a lot. Perhaps it was time in the last third of life to be seeing a lot. Travel and photography could do that,” he said.

With his wife, Sally Eagle, he has sought out workshops and photo tours. In 2008, five years into retirement, they had two international awards and were exhibiting their work throughout New England.

“Travel photography has given us happiness in exploring cultures, wildlife habitats and landscapes in many other parts of the world and meaning in sharing our good fortune with others, especially students,” he said.

For more, visit” http://www.meadeaglephotos.com/
Tom Flynn ‘69

Tom Flynn, a writer and producer for CBS News, spent three decades covering world events with the professional detachment of a seasoned journalist. Then came 9/11.

As the first plane struck the North Tower, Flynn was drinking coffee on the deck of his apartment in lower Manhattan. Remembering the terrorist attack in 1993, Flynn assumed the worst, grabbed a notebook and pen and steered his bike toward the World Trade Center. By the time he arrived, the second plane had struck the South Tower and he had to retreat as paper, debris and people fell from above. When the South Tower collapsed, he joined a group of others who found shelter in an underground garage, where a medic tagged him “Bikeman” for his refusal to leave his bike behind. Eventually, the former detached observer made his way, covered in dust and ash, to relate his experience to Dan Rather at the CBS News desk.

In 2005, when he retired from CBS, he pulled out his notes to consider a book. At the same time he was reading about another journey through hell—Dante’s Inferno. Two years later, the result was Bikeman, a long epic poem in the style of Dante in which Flynn writes, “I did not live through it. I just did not die.”

Earlier this year, Flynn added playwright to his resume. The book became an off-Broadway play adopted by the 9/11 Memorial Museum. “For a long time … I have found New Yorkers to be reluctant, even fearful of re-visiting that day,” Flynn writes in his blog. “But I see them beginning to approach 9/11 more now than they have since that morning … It is their story now. One they have re-lived, and they seem finally, after all these years, ready to embrace.”

For more visit: http://bikeman1.com

Howard Miller ‘71

Howard Miller ’71 was a matrimonial litigator for many years after graduating from Emory Law School and serving as an assistant state attorney.

In 1999, after several hip replacement surgeries, doctors advised him against continuing a litigation practice involving so much travel to the courthouse with heavy files.

His wife, Lisa, is the debate coach at Nova High School, the third largest program in the country. Howard was always involved so some degree with coaching and chaperoning, but an opportunity arose in 2004 to become the director of the Florida Forensic Institute, one of the largest summer debate camps in the nation. They serve local students but also draw from as far as Hawaii.

Besides running the program, Howard steps into a few seminars on legal and economic issues. “This program could not be more different from fighting over failed marriages and taxes,” he said. “It has provided an opportunity to give back and prepare the next generation.”

For more visit: http://bikeman1.com

Norman Dovberg ‘68

Norman Dovberg went from a decades-long private practice in psychiatry to a retirement where he honed his skills on guitar and played in a rock band. A swimmer at Union, he also took up competitive running and qualified for and ran the Boston Marathon. Today, an average day finds him playing and singing for two hours and exercising for three.

“I just made sure that I had things to retire to by developing options before retirement,” he said. “This is what all the experts say to do for successful retirement. They were not really surprises.”
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Bob Blanchette '69

Throughout a 42-year career in high school education, Bob Blanchette maintained his enthusiasm by taking on different roles: French teacher, mathematics teacher, coach, club advisor, director of admission.

Three months after retirement, he found himself as chief academic officer for KnowledgeWare21 (www.KW21.com), a start-up that is developing software for school districts to implement standards and track student growth throughout the K-12 experience. "What attracted me to the company was its clear emphasis on the skills teachers find so difficult to measure: critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and communication," he said. "I now regret that I didn’t do more to address this important issue during my career, but my role in this start-up is offering me an unexpected second chance."

This may not sound to some like a ‘radical’ change for me,” he added. “However, I am learning a whole new set of skills related to product development, marketing, website development, and many of the financial and legal aspects of launching a start-up company.”

Rick Sheremeta '70

Rick Sheremeta was a civil engineer in South Florida, but for the past eight years has been in retirement with a busy outdoor photography business that he runs with his wife, Dody, in Somers, Mont. They live in a log home on a mountain ridge overlooking Flathead Lake in one direction and Glacier Park in the other. He and Dody are frequent contributors to Outdoor Photographer and publications featuring the beauty of the West. Rick is a photography instructor for the Glacier Institute and a frequent author of articles on locations and techniques.

For more, visit: www.alpenglowproductions.com

But Norman surprised even himself when he began a satirical novel about God, creation and the foibles of the human race. "I had read and thought a lot about [the subject] ever since taking courses in philosophy and religion at Union, which I loved," he said. He describes the book, still underway, as a "Jonathan-Swift-meets-Mark-Twain-meets-George-Carlin version of the nature of Man from the point of view of God. It is completely irreverent and will need to be published under a pseudonym if I expect to live long enough to experience a natural death," he said.
Phyllis Zych

Reinvention is nothing new to Phyllis Zych Budka. Her 1964 bachelor’s degree in Russian from the University of Rochester made sense in the Sputnik era, but Schenectady in the 70’s and 80’s was no place for a Russian major. So at 40, after part-time study, she earned a master’s in mechanical engineering from Union. In the mid-80’s, she was a freelance technical writer for GE. “As an engineer who likes to write, I always got the job,” she says. From the early 90’s until she retired in 2008, the computer revolution kept her busy. “Part of the fun was bridging the gap between engineering needs and translating them into ‘program speak,’” she said.

What she discovered in retirement was genealogy and a large and interesting family she never knew in Poland and Lithuania. All four of her grandparents came to Schenectady from Poland, so before retirement her ancestral curiosity was limited to the area.

“Since 1999, I have been to Poland five times and to Lithuania twice, meeting relatives, searching for ‘new’ relatives, and falling in love with these people, who have suffered much, and are eagerly and rapidly embracing the democratic way of life.”

She has published several essays on her family research (in English and Polish), and has contributed to materials

Bob Tito '69

“I’ve embraced the idea that reinvention is better than retirement,” wrote Dick Tito ’69 a securities trader-turned-yoga instructor and Addictions Counselor. “If you can have a sense of purpose and enjoy whatever you find yourself doing, then age becomes just a number. Not being afraid to redefine yourself as new opportunities come along allows you to be open to wherever life takes you. I’m now totally accepting that putting ‘they lived until they died’ on all our tombstones would be a great way to end the final chapter!”

Tito retired in 2006 at age 59. During 30 years in the securities industry, he hadn’t thought much about his next chapter, but convinced himself there was something else in life besides capital markets. Some personal reflection led him to a major decision: become a registered yoga instructor. In 2011, he earned a master’s in counseling from Waynesburg (Pa.) University, and at 64 started doing part-time drug and alcohol counseling for Gateway Rehab in Pittsburgh. He ran the Men’s Relapse Prevention Therapy Group for a couple of years and now consults to Gateway on issues concerning men and addictions. His personal focus is on combining Western psychology with Eastern spiritual traditions, such as meditation and yoga. He also has experience with combining 12 Step group work with mindfulness meditation.

“If I had known I was going to self-identify as a ‘Presbyterian with Buddhist Tendencies’... I would have paid more attention in the World Religions Class I took at Union in 1965,” he said.

Peter Hayden ’83

Throughout his time at Union, Peter Hayden was fascinated by the Erie Canal and spent many an afternoon watching boats go through Lock 7. A little research revealed that the waterway was still navigable east and south to the Atlantic, and west to the Great Lakes. Once in the great lakes, one can continue west to Chicago then south to the Gulf of Mexico, or go northeast out the St. Lawrence back to the Atlantic.

After earning a bachelor’s in electrical engineering and a master’s in computer science from Union, he vowed to one day make one of those trips.
After a career as a corporate attorney for a health insurance company, John Perlstein ’74 doesn’t claim to have re-invented himself in retirement. But he enjoys being able to do things that weren’t possible when he was working. One of those is mediation. After an intensive training class, he did volunteer mediation work for the Connecticut court system. Then he re-connected with a former colleague to provide legal and compliance consulting services to small- and mid-sized health care companies.

The extra time also allowed him to train for and complete a marathon—“the hardest thing I’ve ever done”—and two half-marathons and several triathlons. Lately, he has added yoga. But the best job ever? “Grandparenting.” And on a recent trip to see his grand-

children, he got a bonus: a chance meeting with a Union friend he hadn’t seen in 40 years: music conductor Bob Bernhardt ’73.

Bob Birenbaum ’80

Bob Birenbaum ’80 graduated with degrees in electrical engineering and computer science, and went to work for Digital Equipment Corporation designing integrated circuits. He earned an MBA at Boston University. After a few years as an engineer, he moved into marketing and then marketing management, spending 15 years in that discipline. Mid-career, he moved into sales and spent time as both a manager and individual contributor.

In anticipation of retiring, last year he was certified as a basketball referee. In his second year of officiating, he is doing sub-varsity high school games, boys and girls. His goal is to move up to varsity and college in the next few years.

“Basketball has been a passion of mine since I was a child, and this will allow me to stay close to the sport, meet lots of new and interesting people, and earn just a little bit of money,” he said.
Behind

The story and influence of Urania Nott

Adapted from a paper by A. Richard Harris ’14 for Prof. Denis Brennan’s course, “Hidden in Plain Sight: Union’s History and Treasures”
Before her marriage to President Eliphalet Nott, Urania Sheldon was the highly respected superintendent of several women’s schools and the leader of local benevolent associations. After 1860, with the Nott incapacitated by stroke, she took a greater role in the administration of the College, elevating her beyond the traditional role of president’s wife.

Born in Troy in 1806, Urania attended the Troy Female Seminary under the leadership of Emma Willard, a prominent advocate of women’s education. In 1827, at 21, she founded a women’s school in Rensselaer County, and in 1830 she established the Schenectady Female Seminary, where she likely met her future husband. In 1837, she created and led the Utica Female Academy. All three schools flourished.

Urania’s approach paralleled the mission of Emma Willard and the movement for women’s education; she instructed her pupils with practical, intellectual topics to equal the education of men. She believed strongly in the intelligence and independence of women and displayed this in defiant action in Utica. When trustees proposed annexing the Academy with the boys’ school, Urania declined, saying the arrangement “was likely to be a partnership productive only of disappointment … and of great disadvantage to her school,” according to a memo.

When Nott and Urania Sheldon married in 1842, he was 69, she 35. The arrival of Urania in the 38th year of Nott’s presidency heralded a reinvigoration of the College. A letter from Franc Bangs Wilkie describes Mrs. Nott as “[her husband’s] mentor, his staff, his inspiration.” Faculty respected her by affording her “a voice in the counsels of the faculty” and her administrative skills were “an essential factor in numerous business enterprises of her husband,” according to Wilkie, who adds that students regarded her as “their friend, their nurse, their sympathizer and a mother.”

Throughout Nott’s presidency, Urania protected Nott’s interests and reputation. In his later years, when newspapers ridiculed Nott for mishandling public money and mixing his finances with those of the College, Urania appealed to political leaders to defend her husband.

With his wife’s assistance, Nott remained as president for six years after a series of strokes beginning in 1860. Whether Nott was capable of making decisions is answered in part by letters from Urania to William Henry Seward, Class of 1820. In an 1863 letter to Seward, she reports that Nott had suffered a “severe attack of paralysis affecting the whole left side together with his speech,” rendering his mind as “calm as a summer sea … literally waiting for the messages to bear him Home.” In 1864, after another stroke, Nott seemed to have no concept of time and place, according to Union professor and Nott biographer Codman Hislop.

With the president’s decisions communicated almost exclusively through his wife, it is highly likely that it was Urania at the helm of the College beside her incapacitated husband.
Urania at the helm of the College beside her incapacitated husband. Throughout his illness, Nott was “hovered over constantly by Urania,” according to Hislop, who notes that Urania guided Nott’s hand in signing signatures at the 1865 Commencement.

Nott’s failing health was no secret to either administrators or faculty “who drifted in and out of the treasurer’s office, [being able to] see above the debris of the President’s collapsed fortunes and hopes for a Union College,” Hislop wrote.

On Jan. 25, 1866, at 92 and in the 62nd year of his presidency, Nott died with Urania by his side. She did not rest in her protection of her husband’s reputation. She contributed substantially to memorial and biographical sketches and was a strong proponent of the Nott Memorial, which was to include a rooftop statue of Nott. She established the Nott Trust Fund, serving as one of six overseers.

Rumors abound that after the death of Nott, Urania refused to leave the President’s House. However, this privilege was granted to her by the trustees along with an annual stipend, according to a biography by former archivist Ellen Fladger.

The widow occupied her time with service to the town of Schenectady, becoming the president of the Ladies Benevolent Society. During her term, she saw the establishment of the Home for the Friendless, which exists today as the Heritage Home for Women. Urania Elizabeth Sheldon Nott died April 19, 1886 at age 80.

IN HISTORY OF UNION CLASS, A VISIT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Ideas for their own sake matter, but for Union that is not enough,” President Stephen C. Ainlay told students this spring in Prof. Denis Brennan’s class on Union history. “Ideas matter as ways to change the world.”

He cited Charles P. Steinmetz, the electrical inventor of GE who founded Union’s electrical engineering department, for his advocacy of a then-new idea: alternating current. He also mentioned Nikki Stone ’96, who earned a gold medal at the 1998 Olympics in the new sport of aerial freestyle skiing. Steinmetz and Stone are among those who possess Union’s DNA, the audacity to imagine, Ainlay said.

The President discussed his ongoing project, in collaboration with students, to develop a book that cites important Union College events for each day of the year. Among the entries would be Feb. 18, the day Stone won gold, or March 30, the date in 1867 that Secretary of State William Henry Seward (Class of 1820) purchased Alaska.

Brennan’s class, “Hidden in Plain Sight: Union College’s History and Treasures,” takes advantage of original sources in Special Collections to make students more aware of the history that surrounds them. “Tight schedules and familiarity make it easy to overlook the history of the College,” Brennan said.
The internship:
Key to after-college success

By Erin DeMuth Judd

GPAs and extracurriculars aside, it seems that little matters more these days to a student’s post-collegiate prospects than an internship.

“Over the last five years, since the recession, it’s been absolutely critical,” said Bob Soules, director of Union’s Becker Career Center. “The larger employers we work with often tell us they’d like to convert 75 percent of their interns into full-time personnel.”

Indeed, according to a 2013 Forbes.com article, 36 percent more companies offered internships in 2013 than did in 2012. Additionally, Forbes found, an intern has a 7 in 10 chance of being hired permanently by the company he or she interned with.

Just why, exactly, are businesses so keen on internships? Turns out, the arrangements benefit employers just as much as they do students like those at Union.

“The summer between my junior and senior year I was a trading intern at Morgan Stanley, and now I’m full-time on the fixed income trading desk,” Kyle Christine ’13 said. “The most important part of any internship is figuring out if that job is what you want to do, and then gaining actual work experience.”

“But you also have to prove that you can do the work, that the company can rely on you,” he added. “They spend three months training you as an intern; they want to see you can handle it before they hire you.”

Pat Haskell ’94, managing director and head of Morgan Stanley’s municipal securities division, agrees.

“I had an internship myself as a student and it was critical. I really enjoyed my liberal arts education, but clearly you need to show you can practically apply that knowledge,” said Haskell, who studied economics at Union. “There’s no better way to do this than to have an internship, it dramatically increases opportunities for gainful employment.”

In fact, at Morgan Stanley, many interns who prove their value and skill are hired permanently after college.
moderately priced fashion novelty knits in New York City, has never been disappointed by a Union student.

“I’ve had great success hiring interns from the College, they are enthusiastic, eager to learn and excited to be part of my company,” she said. “My interns learn all aspects of Only Nine, from design to merchandising to sales and shipping. Like all internships, it’s a wonderful chance for young people to explore an industry and their passions while they’re still students.”

Gorman is particularly proud that those who intern with her go on to find success, whether through continued work with Only Nine or elsewhere.

“One Union student became a full-time employee of mine, and after three years, she left to advance her career in visual merchandising with Georgio Armani,” she said. “I’m thrilled to know her positive experience at Only Nine contributed to her achievements.”

Gorman, like many employers who seek interns, also understands the importance of the internship process.

“The internship is basically an 8-week-long interview,” Haskell said. “After that we have a pretty good idea of what you can do and how you fit at Morgan Stanley.”

Haskell, incidentally, is Christine’s boss and he’s the person Christine was put in contact with when he was looking for an internship. Haskell is also the one who began facilitating these kinds of opportunities for Union students in the first place.

“When I got involved with virtual recruiting, I did it with the understanding that I would include Union,” he said. “Union was a very big part of my life, I feel indebted to the institution, so I’m happy to help now.”

So is Jamie (Aronson) Gorman ’95. She’s one of many alumni who act as bridges between their companies and the College to provide internship opportunities across a variety of industries.

Gorman, who founded and operates Only Nine, a missy and plus-size sportswear company specializing in moderately priced fashion novelty knits in New York City, has never been disappointed by a Union student. “I’ve had great success hiring interns from the College, they are enthusiastic, eager to learn and excited to be part of my company,” she said. “My interns learn all aspects of Only Nine, from design to merchandising to sales and shipping. Like all internships, it’s a wonderful chance for young people to explore an industry and their passions while they’re still students.”

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tance of what she can learn from students. “They teach me too, especially about social media and the e-commerce business that is so important for my company,” she said. “When I was at Union, there were no computers or email, there wasn’t even the internet. Evolving to compete in this virtual world is a constant learning process, one I’m happy to include interns in.”

The educational value of interns and internships has many facets. Take the Class of 1973 Community Service Internship Endowed Fund. Established in 2008 in honor of the class’s 35th ReUnion to support a non-profit internship for one student per summer, the fund has grown to allow two students this unique experience each year.

“This internship allows students to think beyond his or her self, to think of the needs of the wider world. The Class of 1973 wants Union students to be able to consider the possibility of nonprofit work as a career,” George Bain ’73 said. “And even if the nonprofit world isn’t where students end up, this experience will have reminded them that part of their responsibility as good citizens is to give back.”

Since the internship’s inception, students have worked with Community Hospice of Schenectady, Educational Alliance in New York City, the Center for Community Justice in Schenectady, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, and Schools on Wheels (Mass. and Calif.), among others.

According to Bain, Tatum Weishaupt ’09 wrote this of her time with Community Hospice: “The experience had a substantial impact on my perspective of becoming a physician and will certainly shape how I consider patient care. I cannot imagine a more meaningful opportunity and body of knowledge to take with me.”

Weishaupt went on to receive a master’s in biomedical science from Georgetown University and George Mason University. She is coordinator of the long-term follow-up program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The variety of internships Union and its alumni are able to collaboratively offer a student is immense. These positions are accessible through the Becker Career Center, which provides instruction on everything from resume and cover letters to interviewing and networking. At the center, students can also use national databases and the College’s exclusive database—HireU—to search for openings.

While it’s difficult to quantify exactly how many individuals secure internships directly through the career center, Union students are certainly gaining the necessary early career experience.

“We do a first destination survey in early May that is administered to all graduating seniors,” said Keri Willis, assistant director of internship programs. “Of the 80 to 85 percent who complete the survey, 70 percent say they have done an internship or summer research by the time they leave Union.”

And this fact seems to help lead to gainful pursuits following Commencement. “Sixty-five percent of graduates find full-time employment, 30 percent head to graduate school and 5 percent elect to travel or do other things,” Soules said.
Ever wonder what Union professors are up to when they aren’t teaching? Just about everything, as it turns out. Nothing is beyond their collective reach or curious minds. Here’s just a glimpse of the diverse and intriguing work they do.

New way to study tree rings could increase global climate knowledge

Anouk Verheyden-Gillikin, adjunct professor of geology (With Jordan Thomson ’14 and Emily Crampe ’15)

There’s a gap in our understanding of global climate history, dendrochronologically speaking. “We have a research bias towards the temperate and arid regions,” Anouk Verheyden-Gillikin said. “In order to have a more complete and more correct paleoclimate reconstruction, we need to obtain more data from tropical regions.”

A new methodology she’s exploring could do just this.

Temperate trees are more often studied because they produce wide growth rings in favorable conditions (enough rain) and narrow rings in unfavorable conditions (drought), Verheyden-Gillikin said. Each ring has a distinct boundary, created when a tree stops growing for the year during winter months.

As such, ring width indicates what climate was like during the years of a tree’s life (which can be centuries long). Rings also indicate how much carbon a tree absorbs and stores in its wood as it photosynthesizes and grows.

Tropical trees, however, like those in the Kenyan mangroves Verheyden-Gillikin studies, often grow all year and produce continuous rings with few obvious boundaries.

Unless a scientist is using high resolution signals; the method utilizes several variables, including isotopes, to distinguish growth periods. Analyzing different forms (isotopes) of oxygen and carbon, Verheyden-Gillikin has found that the isotopic composition of tropical trees changes with wet and dry seasons, due to differences in available water (made of hydrogen and oxygen).

“The isotopic signal provides a chemical ring boundary, rather than an anatomical boundary,” Verheyden-Gillikin said. “It allows us to obtain estimates of tree age, information on past rainfall and temperature, reconstruct tree growth rates, and determine carbon sequestration.”

Verheyden-Gillikin’s continued research is made possible by Union’s new isotope lab, supported by a National Science Foundation instrumentation grant secured by David Gillikin, assistant professor of geology. Online: http://minerva.union.edu/gillikid/lab.htm

—By Erin DeMuth Judd
Economics: Both scientific and religious?

Kirk Wegter-McNelly, John and Jane Wold Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

In recent decades, many religious reflections on economics—celebrating or denouncing the social effects of things like the privatization of public services—have been published. But little attention has been given to the ongoing debate among philosophers of economics about the status of economics as a scientific discipline.

Kirk Wegter-McNelly is paying attention, though, to each of these aspects.

“I’m investigating economics on the assumption that its practice rightly includes both scientific and religious dimensions,” he said. “One of my main concerns is to characterize the nature of economics in ways that acknowledge and make sense of the fact that economics entertains—perhaps even requires—both scientific and religious modes of argumentation.”

An example of such argumentation, scientifically, is econophysics. It applies the methods and theories of physics to economic problems like financial markets and economic growth. The goal, Wegter-McNelly explained, is to “mathematize” economics so that its conclusions are afforded the same authority as those of physics.

Religiously, Wegter-McNelly points to the Social Gospel Movement of the late 19th century as an example. Its proponents strove to improve society through biblical principles of charity and justice. Labor reforms, including abolition of child labor and a living wage, were their primary concerns.

The idea that economics possesses both scientific and religious characteristics is important to Wegter-McNelly, because science and religion are typically viewed as separate and irreconcilably opposed.

“Economics provides an intriguing realm in which scientific and religious concerns are inextricably linked,” he said. “This kind of study has the potential to expand and even reshape the ways scholars of religion think about relating region and science to one another.”

Wegter-McNelly’s work is supported by a faculty fellowship from the Lilly Endowment.

—By Erin DeMuth Judd

Fish colon offers insight into evolution

Nicole Theodosiou, associate professor of biology

Skates have primitive colons. This may not sound like a big deal, but it is. The discovery could change scientific understanding of evolution, of how animals emerged from water to live on land.

Nicole Theodosiou uses these skates, cartilaginous fish related to sharks and rays, to learn how we came to have colons.

“I’m particularly interested in how land animals stay hydrated, even though we don’t have a hard shell that prevents us drying up like raisins in the sun,” she said. “The colon is an important organ that helps us retain and absorb water, but how exactly did we come to have this organ?”

The skate has begun to provide an answer.

As a marine creature that hasn’t changed in 450 million years, the skate is a living fossil that provides a snapshot of what animals were like a very long time ago. It’s also a fish that’s isotonic with its environment, meaning concentrations of things like salt inside its body are in exact balance with concentrations outside its body (in the ocean it lives in).

As a result, the skate is never thirsty or in danger of not getting enough to drink. But—strangely—it does have a rudimentary colon that soaks up water, as Theodosiou and her colleagues learned.

“Fish aren’t supposed to have the ability to absorb water in their intestines, they don’t really need to,” she explained. “The fact that skates do absorb water, and have the cell types and water channels to facilitate water absorption, means that animals were potentially ‘primed,’ in a way, to survive on land.”

“That’s new,” Theodosiou continued. “People think that animals move to a new environment and they evolve to survive. But maybe sometimes in evolution you need to be ready to accept the change that comes.”

—By Erin DeMuth Judd
For TV host Robin Trainer, everything seems so good again. After losing her on-air job two years ago, she has fought her way back, and now with her new show climbing in the ratings and her first book a bestseller, she’s being called a double threat. Then, suddenly, things begin to go wrong. Just little things at first. A drink dumped in her purse. Her office photos shredded. But soon the incidents escalate. The foundation the makeup artist uses burns Robin’s face and has obviously been tampered with. Someone is after her, someone she works with every day. And it becomes terrifyingly clear that they’re not going to stop until Robin has lost everything that matters to her.

Savoring Sicily: The memoir of a biophysicist falling in love with Sicily and spreading that love to college science students

Come along on a trip with Jay Newman, the R. Gordon Gould Professor of Physics at Union College. Travel to Sicily, an ancient island conquered by the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... and most recently the Mafia. Explore its people and culture through the eyes of this scientist, who’s been visiting this wonderful mixed-up melting pot of civilizations since 1984. Experience what it’s like to live on this island, shop for food, go to public school, travel to its ancient ruins, see its cities, museums and cultural sites, eat in its restaurants, meet a variety of Sicilians who become family, and do first-tier science research at a national laboratory in Palermo. Lead college science students on their semesters abroad, living in the heart of Sicily doing research, and falling in love with all things Sicilian.
A trust distribution was received from the estate of Reverend Lyman G. Potter, Class of 1946 and his wife, Amy. This gift established the Lyman G. Potter ‘46 Endowed Fund, to be administered by the chair of Religious Studies to provide a variety of experiences to students and the campus.

A gift was received from the estate of Max Len, Class of 1939, to establish the Max Len ’39 Scholarship Fund.

An unrestricted bequest was received from the estate of Paul W. Myers, Class of 1944.

A bequest distribution was received from the estate of Joseph D. Martin, Class of 1953. This gift was made in support of the pre-medical program.

An unrestricted bequest was received from the estate of Paul E. Newcomer, Class of 1947 and will be used at the discretion of the trustees. A committed supporter of the annual fund, Paul and his wife, Dorothy, lived for many years in York, Penn.

The final distribution was received from the Margaret N. Deal charitable lead trust. For a period of 15 years, proceeds were added to the Harold S. & Margaret N. Deal Memorial Scholarship in support of students majoring either in biochemistry or pre-health programs.

In support of the Union College Annual Fund, a trust distribution was received from the estate of Robert L. Slobod, Class of 1935.

A gift was received from the estate of Peter R. Brayton, Class of 1972, and established the Peter R. Brayton Class of 1972 Endowed Fund in support of undergraduate summer research in biological sciences.

A trust distribution was received from the estate of Ann Huppert and established the Ann Huppert and Perry Huppert Endowed Scholarship. Awards will be made to students from Schenectady County studying mechanical engineering.

A bequest distribution was received from the estate of Edmund B. McCue, Class of 1950, and established the Edmund B. McCue Endowed Fund for unrestricted use. Dr. McCue was professor emeritus of math and statistics at American University.

In support of the Annual Scholarship Fund, a gift was received from Eleanor Sarnacki. Ms. Sarnacki was a former nurse at the College.

A partial trust distribution was received from the estate of Frank E. Lord, Class of 1951. Proceeds will be used at the discretion of the trustees.

A trust distribution was received from the estate of Naomi Chambers, to be added to the Walter R.G. and Naomi Baker Scholarship. Mrs. Chambers was the widow of Walter R.G. Baker, Class of 1916.

A remainder trust distribution was received from the estate of Edwin A. Brown and will be used at the discretion of the trustees.

In support of the Annual Fund, a trust distribution was received from the estate of Jeremiah Gray Jr., Class of 1956.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES
Charitable Gift Annuities were established by:

- William S. Parry, Class of 1965. The proceeds from this gift will be applied to the Jonathan Stanley Parry Scholarship Fund.
- Jacob E. Myer Jr., Class of 1960. The proceeds from this gift will be used as determined by the donor.
UPCOMING ALUMNI CLUB EVENTS

DEC. 10
Holiday Party
Washington D.C.

DEC. 11
Holiday Party
New York City

JAN. 24, 2015
3rd Annual
Mayors Cup
Albany, N.Y.

OCT. 24-26
Homecoming &
Family Weekend
Union College

For more, visit www.union.edu/alumni

Alumni in Atlanta watch the skating Dutchmen win their first national championship.

The NYC Alumni Club hosted a cleanup day May 3, volunteering in Staten Island for the day with Habitat for Humanity. They painted houses, cleared basements and put up sheet rock.

Vincent Mattone ’06, Jennifer Lawton ’85 and Robert Derbabian ’83 attend the Business Networking Breakfast at the AllianceBernstein offices in New York City May 21. Lawton, president of MakerBot, was keynote speaker. Mattone was the M.C., and he and Derbabian both helped plan the event.

The Union College Club of Cape Cod spent an afternoon touring the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute recently.

Alumni in Atlanta watch the skating Dutchmen win their first national championship.

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The Union College Club of Cape Cod spent an afternoon touring the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute recently.
1948

University of Rhode Island research professor Leslie De Groot has been recognized by the Endocrine Society with its Robert H. Williams Distinguished Leadership Award. The annual award recognizes outstanding leadership in fundamental or clinical endocrinology. Throughout his 60-year career as a scientist, teacher, clinician and administrator, Leslie has had an enormous impact on the field of endocrinology. He has authored influential textbooks, and his research in thyroidology has touched almost every aspect of the discipline, including thyroid hormone synthesis and action, mechanisms of autoimmune thyroid disease and thyroid cancer.

1950

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Heckeler has been a volunteer night chaplain at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady for more than 20 years. He stays overnight in the hospital at least one night a week, and sometimes two nights, to provide spiritual care to patients and families. Kenneth also gave the invocation at Union Graduate College in June.

1951

Dr. Gerald Ente, a Long Island pediatrician, was recently recognized with the 2014 Sidney Mishkin, M.D. Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award during the Nassau County Medical Society’s annual ball in April. Gerald entered private practice in 1960 in Jericho, N.Y. He went on to a long and varied career teaching, both in medical schools and hospitals, reaching the rank of associate professor of pediatrics emeritus. He continues to write medical articles and, until recently, mentored residents at Schneider Children’s Hospital, Nassau County Medical Center and Winthrop University Hospital.

1952

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Dr. Arthur Stockman
3142 21st Court West
Bradenton, Fla. 34205
(941) 345-4590
joanandart@gmail.com

Don Grunewald is a full-time professor of strategic management at Iona College in New Rochelle. He’s the oldest full-time professor at Iona’s Hagan School of Business. The rest of the time he spends on Cape Cod.

Bob Richter sent his regrets about not being able to attend ReUnion. He and his wife, Gladys, are approaching their 60th wedding anniversary. Bob retired from surgical practice in 2000 and still teaches two days a week. He is otherwise doing woodworking, which he characterizes as having some “artistic and commercial success.”

1953

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Garrett Murphy
7 Maxwell Street
Albany, N.Y. 12208-1607
gmurphy6@nyicap.rr.com
(518) 438-7319

Charlie Clark is living in Denver, Colo., where he has written a book that was published in June. It is an action adventure story titled The Bootlegger 40 Ford, set in Schenectady and the old Delta Chi house.

1954

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Avrom J. Gold
P.O. Box 559
Whitehouse Station, N.J. 08889

Avrom Gold writes, “Fifteen members of the Class of 1954 returned for our 60th ReUnion festivities. They were Phil Beuth, Jerry Barandes, Connie Lang, Marv Zepf, Al Goldberger, Jim Groff, Dick Hermann, Don Grunewald, Bill Doll, George Biscoe, Charlie Vesty, Ross Saddlemire, Bob Tofel, Paul Gilbert and Abby Gold. I am living in Bloomfield, N.J., after a number of years in Hilton Head, S.C. and the last year in Trenton, N.J. with my brother, Hy Gold ‘67. I spend much of my time doing consulting work and look forward to returning to some golf if my injured wrist permits.”

Jim Groff reports that after a successful 24-year career in the Navy and an additional stint in Washington, D.C. as director of a trade association, he and his wife, Betts, are retired and have been living in Kitty Hawk, N.C. for the last 12 years, where he keeps busy with tennis, bicycle riding and other personal and charitable pursuits.

Don Grunewald is a full-time professor of strategic management at Iona College in New Rochelle. He’s the oldest full-time professor at Iona’s Hagan School of Business. The rest of the time he spends on Cape Cod.

1955

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Ken Haefner
1346 Waverly Pl.
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308
haefnerkb@juno.com

Robert DeSiene writes, “Marcie and I have two sons, well under way in the world, three grandsons still finding their way. After 48 years of...”
Dominick Carbone writes, “Fran and I have recently arrived at our cottage in Hampton Bays, N.Y. for the summer. We are escaping the heat and humidity of our home in Miromar Lakes, Fla. (west coast just outside of Fort Myers). Life is great and I am doing what I normally do—clubs and other social groups, studying environmental science at FGCU, a little reading and very little golf.”

Robert M. Lewis writes, “Recently celebrated 50th anniversary of wedding to Ruth Freeman M.D., my medical school classmate at Albert Einstein Coll. of Med. Also received the Distinguished Alumnus/Clinical Practitioner Award at the AECOM Commencement.”

Robert Scott writes, “Living in Palm Springs, Calif. with my wife, Barbara. I’m a real estate broker with offices in Palm Springs and Huntington Beach. Barbara is a real estate agent with Windermere in Palm Springs. Have four children.”

MAP ENTHUSIAST VOLUNTEERS AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Herbert Gilder ’56 is well-known at the Library of Congress, especially in the Geography and Map Reading Room. For the past 11 years, he has volunteered there, organizing and preparing metadata for more than 100 donated collections containing over 15,000 items.

While Gilder has donated his time to many organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, including six Smithsonian museums, the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the White House, he has a special love for maps and their histories.

“I think three of the more interesting collections are, one, the 1990 Mental Sketch Maps of Thomas Saarinen, compiled from college freshmen globally. It reveals their geographic knowledge of the world,” Gilder said. “Two, the collection of General Tasker Howard Bliss, a member of President Woodrow Wilson’s staff at the Paris Peace Conference, contains maps and charts used for determining country boundaries after World War I.”

“And three, the collection of Colonel Dastagir S. Wardak, a former member of the Soviet General Staff, which includes maps and charts used in Soviet war gaming for the overrun of Western Europe in the 1970s,” he continued. “It has pleased me to make these, and other, collections available to researchers.”

Prior to his retirement he managed consumer product companies in this country and the United Kingdom. Gilder, a generous supporter of Union College and member of its Terrace Council and Ramee Circle Society, looks forward to continuing his efforts in the Geography and Map Reading Room. It is work he’s valued for.

“We are honored to have Mr. Gilder as a volunteer,” Geography and Map Chief Ralph Ehrenberg said in a recent Philip Lee Phillips Map Society bulletin. “His dedication and hard work is appreciated by everyone.”
children and four grandchildren. I play tennis or golf almost every day. Planning a family cruise in August to celebrate my 80th birthday. Plan to attend my 60th class ReUnion in 2016.

1957
CLASS CORRESPONDENTS
James R. Fisher
172 Patriot’s Crook
Martinsville, Va. 24112
fisherstwo@gmail.com

Paul Mohr
140 E Duce of Clubs Ste A
Show Low, Ariz. 85901
dadtired@frontiernet.net

Michael D’Innocenzo received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of American Italian Educators. This year, he begins his 54th year of teaching at Hofstra University, the second longest tenure in the history of the school.

1958
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Richard T. Steinbrenner
9 Hunters Trail
Warren, N.J. 07059-7105
r.steinbrenner@att.net

Hugh Lehman writes, “One of my granddaughters, Charlotte Lehman, Class of 2014, graduated Union in June and, I, along with my wife and other family members, were present to enjoy her success.”

Tom Allen writes, “My wife and I moved to Tucson, Ariz. last year. She is a priest and the assistant rector at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in the foothills of Tucson. I continue to work as the executive director of my non-profit, the Extra Dimension Inc., and have expanded our operation to include the Tucson area. Our goal is to help high-achieving, low-income students enter top colleges like Union. When we arrived here I was excited to meet fellow alum, Dave Eales ’63, who is also a parishioner at our church.”

1959
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
William D. “Dal” Trader
5361 Santa Catalina Avenue
Garden Grove, Calif. 92845
daltrader@earthlink.net
dalt@wbct.us

Geoffrey Pietsch writes, “With the Boston Marathon in the news this spring, I wondered if any Union alums from any class have run faster than the 2:33:55 I ran in 1978. I finished 7th in the Masters (40+). No five year age group then, just Open and Masters. I’m paying the price now for decades of high mileage on pavement, replaced my second hip in May.”

1960
CLASS CORRESPONDENTS
Charles Roden
kiw702@aol.com

John H. Nickles
1303 River Road
West Coxsackie, N.Y. 12192

Paul Jacobs writes, “Two noteworthy items: first, we became grandparents to a very lively and wonderful baby boy. We just returned from a week in Michigan, where mom, dad, baby, and two dogs all live in a lovely home on five acres, with a splendid view of Little Traverse Bay and Lake Michigan. Second, Sunsail (the largest sailboat charter company in the world) recently decided to publish Voyages, written by Nancy and myself, in e-book format for both Kindle and Nook. Later in the year the book will also be published by Sunsail in paperback format. Voyages describes five years of Nancy and I sailing in a dozen beautiful and exotic locations from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean to the South Pacific.”

1961
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Bill Condon
1365 Van Antwerp Road, Apt. 1-91
Niskayuna, N.Y. 12309
bcond041@nycap.rr.com
(518) 382-1096

Frederic Bruhn recently finished third in his age group in the 10K World Famous Mud Run at Camp Pendleton in early June. He continues to enjoy retirement in San Clemente, Calif.”

1962
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Ollie R. Bunch
441 Stub Hollow Road
New Hartford, Conn. 06057-2513

Ronald Ferris writes, “As a member of South Boundary, a men’s a cappella ensemble, I was graced with the opportunity sing the song ‘Remembering Our Gifts,’ to which I had authored the lyrics. We sang this song along with several other pieces at two concerts and a worship service on our East Coast Tour in Fairfax, Va. recently.”

1963
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
George Ball
6929 Country Line Road
Wayland, N.Y. 14572-9553
gball@frontiernet.net

John J. Sbrega Ph.D. Health and Constructing, the John J. Sbrega Ph.D. Health and
the classes

1964
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Anton Warde
36 Two Lights Rd.
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
wardea@union.edu

Robert Warner ’64
The meaning of the word ballad has been muddied.
“Somewhere in the evolution of commercial pop music, ballad became a radio DJ’s term for any slow song,” George Ward ’60 said. “Properly, though, a ballad is a story song.”

As a balladeer, he has a keen appreciation for the difference. Ward has been researching folk music and singing folk songs, traditional tunes that tell the stories and histories of people and places, since his Union days.

“The essential characteristics of folk music are oral transmission, at least in part, and the music’s existence within some particular community with its own identity and artistic standards,” explained Ward, who holds an M.A. in American folk life studies from SUNY Oneonta.

“Think of isolated rural communities, certainly, but also of urban ethnic communities, occupational subgroups and even recreational or age groups.”

He is most fascinated by folk music of the Northeast, and has concentrated his efforts here, performing songs and creating albums that reflect the region’s history. Oh! That Low Bridge! is an album of Erie Canal songs, and All Our Brave Tars is a collection of American and British tunes from great naval battles of the 18th and early 19th century.

Ward is happy to have spent his life singing these songs; they’re an important means of persevering and passing down unique customs and a sense of togetherness.

“I was privileged to know many of the older generation musicians who carried these traditions on. Now it’s down to people like me to keep the music alive, if we care about it and find community and history in it,” Ward said. “This music is about the varied cultural threads that have contributed to making us who we are.”

Ward is a member of the board of Caffé Lena, the legendary Saratoga Springs coffeehouse. He’s also on the board of Old Songs Inc., which runs a national folk festival annually at the Altamont (N.Y.) Fairgrounds.

To learn more about Ward, or to hear his song, “Boatman’s Cure,” visit www.mulesong.com

Science Building. John has been president of BCC since 2000. He holds a master’s and doctorate in history from Georgetown University.

Robert Skloot was featured in the spring issue of a newsletter from the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The piece focused on Robert’s 2006 play, If the Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty Against Genocide. It shares the story of the Polish-Jewish lawyer who coined the term “genocide” and spent his life lobbying for the adoption of a United Nations treaty to prevent and punish genocide. The play has been performed throughout the U.S.A., as well as in England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Bosnia, Peru, Cuba and Argentina. It has also been translated into Hebrew and published in an Israeli journal. Robert is professor emeritus of theatre and drama and Jewish studies at the university. For more information, visit www.ifthewholebodydies.com

1965
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Jon Lechevet, Ph.D.
206 Cross Road
Edmeston, N.Y. 13335-2610
jnlechevet@verizon.net

Robert Warner writes, “I’ve spent most of my career in academic cardiology. This was followed by four years as medical director for a start-up medical device company. Most recently, I’ve been developing new methods for analyzing both digital and analog data that apply not only to biomedicine, but to such diverse fields like seismology, industrial processes and financial analysis. I’m still publishing papers and presenting data at scientific meetings. It’s a blast!”

Matthew Intrieri ’64 writes, “Great to see such a fantastic turnout for our 50th ReUnion. Nice to see we all aged well.”

Jeffrey C. Greene writes, “I continue to run Jeffrey Greene Design Studio. Working with three skilled artisans, each of whom apprenticed with me, we specialize in high end natural edge dining tables in rare solid woods. I’ve put together an internet-based business model that minimizes overhead while holding to the highest standards of design and craftsmanship. A network of the decorating and architectural community refers us to their clients (www.jeffreygreene.com). My wonderful wife, Valerie, and I enjoy multiple extended vacations—skiing in Telluride for a month, a week sailing in the Bahamas, visiting friends in Miami, a couple of weeks on Cape Cod, a cruise from Athens to Turkey—with minimal attention to the internet managing the studio while away. I still play the guitar and sing, performing frequently at a local open mic. I was part of Johnny And The Thimmen, a rock-and-roll band, when I was at Union. My two children, Leah and Sammy, are the joy and the challenge that all great kids present. Life has led me in directions that I couldn’t have guessed, and it continues to be very good.”

Robert Hoffman writes, “My eldest son, Ari, (an architect and COO of Gobie H2O) and his wife, Micah (a practicing attorney), living in San Diego, gave us our eighth grandchild, now a 9-month-old precious girl. Our youngest daughter, Misha, (a fellow at U C Hastings Law) and her husband, Ryan, (author of the first book on B corps and a sustainability consultant), living in San Francisco, are incubating our ninth, another girl, due in October. That will help even out the total with five grandsons (ages 5 to 16) living in Marin County and twin granddaughters living in west L.A. We spend most weekends traveling to visit them, though the twins, who have spent a week with us every summer since they were in diapers, are coming to us for another week before entering their junior year in high school. My wife, Julie, and I have not taken a vacation alone since our honeymoon in Switzerland, but will, finally, go to Sedona in December for my 70th birthday and plan to go to Machu Picchu next year for her 60th.”

Dick Powell writes, “I was recently elected to the board of the International Barber-shop Harmony Society and am finding it a very rewarding experience. I am also on the board of the Linwood Center that serves autistic children and adults in the Baltimore/Washington area. I am busier than ever now that Roxanne and I are fully retired and sing in four different performing groups. In my ‘spare’ time I travel, visit our seven kids and five grandkids, attend music colleges and conventions around the country and the world, and enjoy every day to the fullest.”

Antonio F. Vianna writes, “I’ve completed a docudrama screenplay about a WWII Vet, an average human being who began his young adult life as a soldier in World War II. He was faced with incredible challenges, yet, each time he was able to overcome the ordeals. He earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and is being considered for the Medal of Honor. However, he never suspected that the World War II souvenir he sent to his parents at war’s end would test his moral principles, beliefs about fellow human beings and his religious convictions: Hitler’s desk set that was used to sign the 1938 Munich Pact. Today, at 91 years old, he still holds onto the desk set, yet all sorts of people desperately want it. I’m now writing his story in the form of a non-fiction book. This book along with the above screenplay total 22 published books and 8 screenplays that I’ve written since 2003.”

1967

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Joseph Smalldino
720 Cameron St.
Sycamore, Ill. 60178

William Frisbee writes, “Since June 1967... Married Ann (Mele); investment division, Prudential Insurance Co.; five years USAF; business/tax consultant, Pittsfield, Mass.; MSIA (Union); PhD (Cornell); 30 years on faculty, University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada); Retired; moving to Abbotsford, B.C. summer 2014. I have two sons, three grandchildren. Enjoying retirement as full-time residents and travelers in our 40-foot motorhome.”

Van Hubbard writes, “I am still at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. In April 2014, I was inducted as a fellow of the American Society for Nutrition, which is the highest honor that the society bestows and is based upon having achieved a distinguished career in nutrition. In June, I traveled to Kuwait and in July to Korea, at the invitation of their respective governments to assist in the development of programs to address the increasing public health issue of obesity and associated chronic diseases.”

William B. Shertenlieb writes, “I am enjoying semi-retired life on the eastern shore of

Fall 2014 UNION COLLEGE 35
the classes

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the Chesapeake Bay. In 2005, I retired from Board of Education and my specialized work with the migrant worker stream. Life here offers boating, fishing, hunting and gardening, all of which I enjoy. I’ve also kept up a part-time commitment providing court interpreter services for Spanish in the local court systems. My wife, Bonnie (Skidmore, ’64), is also partially retired as she does tax returns each winter. This leaves us the latitude to travel and we try to manage two fairly good size trips a year.

Steve Roehm writes, “Just moved to South Wellfleet, Mass. on Cape Cod. Looking forward to volunteering, mentoring new businesses, playing some golf, and traveling a bit.”

1968
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
John Dresser
Etna, N.H.
dresserdmd@myfairpoint.net

Robert Auerhahn writes, “After 44 years with Eastman Kodak, I retired in May 2012. After a few months, I began working on contract at Carestream Health, which has its roots as a Kodak Division. I’m enjoying the flexible schedule and gradual transition to real retirement. My wife, Dawn, and I have 4 grown children and two grandchildren. Besides family, I keep very busy as president of Chili Volunteer Ambulance (pronounced Chi-li), exempt member of the Chili Fire Department, and a volunteer for Rochester’s Veterans Outreach Center. We enjoy visiting Union any time we are nearby, as two of my daughters attended Albany State.”

1969
CLASS CORRESPONDENTS
Ray Pike
Salisbury, Mass.
rmpike@comcast.net

George Cushing
Delanson, N.Y.
gcushing@nycap.rr.com

Don Barrett writes, “Hello fellas, haven’t been back to UC since I left it but hope to get up there this year. Retired now, but mostly worked in the solar/alternative energy area and also own a small resort near Asheville, N.C. If you’re ever in the area, give me an email. Beautiful area here. I’m writing because I have thousands of negatives taken between ’64 and ’69. Was hoping to digitize them and post ‘em somewhere so they could be perused then downloaded, but I haven’t the time now, or really the expertise. If one of you is looking for something to do that would benefit our class, as well as ’68 and ’67, let me know, send me an email. It would really be an interesting project. Maybe one of you old photo geeks has an interest. Too bad Bosquet’s moved on, I’m sure he would have chipped in. The UBook did well—while it lasted (maybe 3 years) but the ’69 book was requested to be included in the library of MOMA, so hats off to Arnie Bittker, who pretty much shaped the whole thing and congratis to all the rest of you, like me, who followed him like blind puppies. Hope you guys are doing well. Didn’t recognize any one in any of the ReUnion photos, ‘cept for Rocky. You’re all hairy and gray—like the guy I see in the mirror. Sorry to see Bittker’s gone, he was a wild one, and John Shepard, thoughtful and quiet. Best Regards to all.”

1970
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Frank Donnini
239 Rushlake Ct.
Newport News, Va. 23602-6348
fdonnini@aol.com

Peter Smith writes, “Leonard Kagan and I recently received the Distinguished Sigma Phi Service Award at the annual Sigma Phi Banquet on March 4 in New York City.”

Howard Blank continues to race his Ferrari at some of Europe’s most famous tracks with a podium finish this year.

1971
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Henry Fein, M.D.
1106 Cedrus Way
Rockville, Md. 20854
hgein@aol.com

Paul Male writes, “Retired as city engineer for the City of Saratoga Springs in 2011. I spent the next three construction seasons working as a senior inspector on various construction projects. I’m working as the director of Building, Planning and Zoning for the Town of Stillwater in Saratoga County. I have also spent the last three winters in St. Petersberg, Fla.”

1972
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Frederick A. Levy LCSW
732 Thimble Shoals Blvd.
Suite 702
Newport News, Va. 23606-4256
gilda1@verizon.net

Howard Haimes recently accepted a position at TASC, located in Lorton, Va., as subject matter expert. He recently was employed at Joint Research and Development as chief pharmaceutical scientist. “Advise and Assist” Defense Threat Reduction Agency on therapeutics against chemical, biological, radiologic and nuclear threat. Provide intellectual assistance and due diligence on DTRA funded academic, pharmaceutical and biotech DTRA funded projects. Grant reviewer for external projects.”

1973
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
George C. Schwab
1710 Broadway, Apt. B
Schenectady, N.Y. 12306
(518) 372-6507

Jerry Jaiven writes, “I am still employed with AT&T as a service operation executive...”
based out of my home office in Holland, Mich. We just had the second snowiest winter in recorded history, with 153 inches of fluffy snow. I had the pleasure of dashing to Philadelphia and joining many fellow Sigma Chi’s to witness Union’s hockey triumph. Last summer wife Kathy, daughters Hannah and Becky, and I toured Prague, Bratislava, Vienna, and Budapest, highlighted by Hannah playing in the Czech Challenge Cup (women’s ice hockey), where she came in second to a Russian team with many national players. One of our fondest discoveries was in Pezinok, Slovakia, where we toured the National Museum of Wine. It was quite an impressive presentation with over 80 varieties of hand-selected wines available for tasting. For relaxation I continue to play ice hockey in local 40+, 50+, and coed leagues and squeeze in as many Friday night drop-in games as I can. I look forward to seeing a large crowd of Sigs in St. Augustine, Fla., this November for the seventh annual Union College Sigma Chi Golf Outing.”

William Miller writes, “I have now been retired from the U.S. Air Force and the Texas Air National Guard for four years. My grandbaby is three years old. You can find me as Bill Miller on Facebook, maybe among the other 10,000 Bill Millers. My wife still directs a women’s shelter for sexually assaulted and abused women. My son and his wife are fixing to adopt their second child. My daughter and her husband raise deer. It is called T3 Whitetails, also on Facebook. I live in Texas so do not make it to northern New York very often for ReUnions.”

Jerry Jaiven '73 on vacation with wife Kathy and daughters Hannah and Becky

Celebrating Union’s NCAA Hockey Championship at Jim Brennan’s home in Ridgewood, N.J. in April are (front, left to right): Kevin Donnelly ’74, Fred Weil ’75, Peter Tavino ’74; (middle) Garrett Andrews ’78, Robert Johnson ’75, Gary Luks ’74; (back) Jim Brennan ’74, Ian Gluck ’74, Forest Jones ’80, Dave Gordon ’76 and Caren (Fox) Linden ’74.

1976

CLASS CORRESPONDENT

Leslie Steinecker-McHugh
17 Virginia Place
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772
lesmc2@aol.com

Helena Binder directed Opera Saratoga’s production of The Elixir of Love at the Spa Theater in June. Helena is a respected actor and director of plays and musicals. Just a few examples of the productions she has led and the companies she’s worked with include New York City Opera, Erminone; Opera Toledo, Madame Butterfly; and Minnesota Opera, Tales of Hoffman. Helena has been director of the Legislative Correspondents Association Show at the New York State capitol, the oldest political satire revue in the country, for the past 27 years.

Herschel Copeland to its Board of Directors. William was a founding partner of Vinik Asset Management, a Boston hedge firm, where he was a capital market analyst and senior portfolio strategist for 17 years. Prior to this, he spent 12 years at Fidelity Investments, where he was a senior technical market analyst serving both the equity and fixed income divisions of the management company. William received his MBA from the State University of New York. He is a recipient of the Graham and Dodd Award from the Financial Analysts Federation.

1977

CLASS CORRESPONDENT

Tony Romanazzi
75 Bay St.
Glen Falls, N.Y. 12801
romanquato@gmail.com

Amorfix Life Sciences, a product development company focused on diagnostics and therapeutics for misfolded protein diseases, recently announced that it appointed William Copeland to its Board of Directors. William was a founding partner of Vinik Asset Management, a Boston hedge firm, where he was a capital market analyst and senior portfolio strategist for 17 years. Prior to this, he spent 12 years at Fidelity Investments, where he was a senior technical market analyst serving both the equity and fixed income divisions of the management company. William received his MBA from the State University of New York. He is a recipient of the Graham and Dodd Award from the Financial Analysts Federation.

Harris Halpert writes, “After getting together with a group of my close Union friends last summer for our 35th ReUnion, my wife Ellen and I live in Texas so do not make it to northern New York very often for ReUnions.”

1978

CLASS CORRESPONDENT

Jeff Laniewski
Jlaniewi1@maine.rr.com

Harris Halpert writes, “After getting together with a group of my close Union friends last summer for our 35th ReUnion, my wife Ellen and I live in Texas so do not make it to northern New York very often for ReUnions.”

Six Union grads enjoy their second annual Downton Abbey party last November. Back row, from left to right, are Bruce Reichlen ’79, David T. Robinson ’79 and Ben Dibble ’79. Front row, from left to right, are Sara (Simmons) Campbell ’80, Geoff Blum ’78 and David H. Robinson ’50.

1974

CLASS CORRESPONDENT

Gerald A. Dwyer
geraldadwyer@gmail.com

Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside, Calif., recently hired Tim Moran as chief executive officer. He has more than 35 years of healthcare leadership experience and formerly served as chief executive officer at Valley Hospital in Spokane, Wash., providing leadership and strategic direction for the 123-bed facility, which is part of Community Health Systems.

Jerry Jaiven '73 on vacation with wife Kathy and daughters Hannah and Becky

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Robert O. Gurman ’80 writes, “A dozen Psi U’s, classes ranging from 1977-1980, were together in April in North Carolina, watching, rooting, and finally celebrating the hockey team’s national championship.”

Mitch Brand ’78

I did a driving trip from Chicago out East this July. We visited: Union, haven’t been back on campus for at least 15 years; Larry Fein and Ronda in Saratoga Springs; Mike Gray and Tania ’80 in Boston; Rich Stauber and Carol in Westchester; and Mike Rotondi and Meg, Pete Aronson and Emily, Steve Lapidus and Illeana and a few more in NYC. After that trip, Mike Ganz, Mike Rotondi, Mike Gray, Rich Stauber and I got together in Minneapolis in late July to go to a Hot Tuna concert. My ‘UNION’ July was great!”

Mitch Brand is a partner at Stradley Ronon in New York City and will co-chair the firm’s finance and restructuring practice group. Mitch comes to Stradley from Otterbourg P.C., where he practiced for 33 years and was a partner and co-chair of Otterbourg’s special situations practice group. He has decades of experience representing lenders and financial institutions in the structuring, negotiation and documentation of syndicated and non-syndicated financing transactions.

1981
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Alan Saler
17040 Magnolia Boulevard
Encino, Calif. 91316
alan@alansaler.com

TwinFocus Capital Partners, a globally focused investment advisory firm, recently announced that Jeffrey Heisler joined the firm as director of investment strategy, working from the company’s Boston office. Previously, Jeff was the market strategist at the Colony Group. He also served as a professor in the finance and economics department at Boston University, a visiting professor of finance at NYU, and as an instructor at Reykjavik University. While at Boston University, Jeff was the founding faculty director of the master of science in investment management (MSIM) program. Jeff earned a Ph.D. in finance from NYU and a MBA from the University of Chicago.

New York City firm Goldstein Hill & West Architects has hired Jeffrey Ulrich, AIA, LEED AP. He joins CHWA as a senior designer with more than 20 years of domestic and international experience in large-scale, multifamily projects, senior housing, assisted-living, and single-family homes. He will advise clients through the initial decision-making of complex, large-scale residential and mixed-use projects through the initial planning and design development stages.

1982
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Thomas Reynolds
3440 Powells Crossing Ct.
Woodbridge, Va. 22193

Union Women Classes of ‘81/’82 had a wonderful Washington, D.C. spring weekend reunion. We witnessed Union General Daniel Butterfield’s ‘Taps’ played at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, monuments, and enjoyed a dinner on Georgetown’s waterfront. In attendance were Joan Moumbleaux ’81, Nancy Rudolph, Dr. Maria Kansas ’82, Dr. Kelly Dennin ’82 and Shelly Stroud Loveland ’82 enjoyed a weekend reunion in Washington, D.C. recently.

Joan Moumbleaux ’81, Nancy Rudolph ’82, Dr. Maria Kansas ’82, Dr. Kelly Dennin ’82 and Shelly Stroud Loveland enjoyed a weekend reunion in Washington, D.C. recently.

Dr. Rachel I. Mandel writes, “I recently accepted a full-time position as assistant vice president of Medical Affairs at Frederick Memorial Hospital in Maryland. I am also a new adjunct professor with Mt. St. Mary’s University, teaching a master’s level course on contemporary health care policy. In addition to these activities, we have been busy leading up to our son’s graduation from Drexel University with honors and a degree in biomedical engineering. He is continuing onto graduate school to get his PhD. We are very proud.”

1983
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Cory Lewkowicz
74 Taylor St.
Needham, Mass. 02494
lewkowicz@aol.com

David Smith writes, “After many years working for the Rockefeller family as a senior medical practice experience. Maria is founding partner of Troy Family Physicians, P.C., a private practice established in 1989. She will also continue as an associate clinical professor at Albany Medical College and a Cope Certified health coach.

Dr. Rachel I. Mandel writes, “I recently accepted a full-time position as assistant vice president of Medical Affairs at Frederick Memorial Hospital in Maryland. I am also a new adjunct professor with Mt. St. Mary’s University, teaching a master’s level course on contemporary health care policy. In addition to these activities, we have been busy leading up to our son’s graduation from Drexel University with honors and a degree in biomedical engineering. He is continuing onto graduate school to get his PhD. We are very proud.”
investment professional, I’ve decided to sow my entrepreneurial oats in my own venture at Merrill Lynch—The Smith & Burns Group. Wealth management is a complicated business, and we focus on the issues that will make a tangible difference in our clients’ lives. I’ve enjoyed reconnecting with Union through my son (Class of 2016), our 30th ReUnion, and the rebirth of Fiji (re-chartered 2014). I can say that Union is an amazing place, which I appreciate now more than ever. If you haven’t been back to Union recently, make the trip and rediscover the U. Also, thanks to those of you who provide continuous support to the Annual Fund. Your gifts continue your legacy and will make the future of Union a reality.

Michael Kaplowitz writes, “I became chair of the Department of Community Sustainability in Michigan State University’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Not a day goes by that I don’t think about how I can infuse elements of my wonderful Union experience into our undergraduate students’ experiences. For example, my colleagues recently agreed to limit introductory course sizes and place some of the best teachers in those classes. Of course, MSU is no Union College. Life is good in mid-Michigan for me and my family, Donna and our four kids (Ariel, Andrew, Eliana, and Andrew). Please come by for a visit or drop me an email sometime (kaplowit@msu.edu).”

Magda Sura Mininberg (G’85) is thrilled that her son, Mark G. Mininberg, will attend Union in the fall as a freshman in the Class of 2018. Mark plans to study engineering while at Union and joins the Union Legacy community.

1984

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Kathleen Kozera Rowe
33 Fairway Ave.
Delmar, N.Y. 12054-3332

Christopher Kiwus, commanding officer of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast, recently joined Virginia Tech as associate vice president and chief facilities officer. A captain in the U.S. Navy, Christopher has 30 years of experience as a senior leader, manager, and engineer in charge of navy facilities planning, engineering, maintenance, construction contracting, and support service contracts. As associate vice president and chief facilities officer, he will provide leadership for more than 400 university employees in Facilities Operations, the University Building Official, University Design and Construction, and Facilities Services Finance. He will oversee the care, maintenance and development of Virginia Tech’s growing campus, spanning more than 2,600 acres, with 125 buildings and an airport, and will be responsible for the current $150 million capital project program.

Alissa (Calabria) Quinn writes, “My husband John and I will be celebrating our 27-year wedding anniversary. We have two children, John, a rising senior at Babson College in Boston and Rachel, a rising senior at Babson High School. We have lived in Guiderland, N.Y. since graduation, 20 minutes from Union. We also have two mini long hair dachshund pups, Harpo and Bella.”

Jeffrey Cornell writes, “In July, I’ll have 30 years with General Dynamics, Electric Boat, most of them at the Kesselring Site and some in Groton, Conn. I live in Hartford, N.Y. in Washington County, between Lake George and Vermont, where I have two farms, majoring in maple syrup production but also whatever agriculture comes up, including hops. I am married to Lisa (30 years in September). We have three sons, one of whom is in college for jazz performance in piano (Charles is great). He plays at various locations between New York City and Ticonderoga. I am working on Virginia class submarines and the design of the new Ohio Replacement Class submarine. Lisa and I have been ‘smoking’ through the High Peaks of the Adirondacks the past few years. I have been a Scoutmaster for several years. I hope to be at ReUnion weekend and see some of you. I’ve got my championship ice hockey team hat.”

Alison Malkin writes, “My husband, Rich, and I have been together 19 years and we have a son, Evan, who’s 14 and a chocolate lab who’s almost 3. We love traveling and have been lucky enough to do quite a bit of it. I have a master’s of social work and am the prevention/intervention counselor at Newton North High School in Massachusetts, where I’ve worked for the past 24 years. The time has flown by.”
Audrey Churchill '84 writes, “Celebrating 30 years since graduation from Union College feels very strange to me. My son, Mario, was born on June 10, 1984 at 3:20 a.m., the morning of my Union College graduation. He attended the University of Chicago for his undergraduate degree and is completing his dissertation for a Ph.D. in history/philosophy at UC Santa Cruz/History of Consciousness Program. My daughter is 14 and a freshman in HS. She, like her brother, loves the humanities and arts and is pretty good in math and science as well. She has visited Union a couple of times and may even consider applying, especially since there are now dance and theatre departments. I did not register, but I drove up to Schenectady to take part in ReUnion festivities on Friday and Saturday. It was interesting to meet some of my old classmates again.”

1985 CLASS CORRESPONDENT Jon Mathewson
PO Box 1262
Middletown Springs, Vt.
05757-1262

Susan Monac writes, “We are very excited and proud that our daughter, Emily, will be entering Union this fall as a freshman. Her cousin, Ben Handler, will also be Union Class of 2018.”

Wayne Josel writes, “After 20+ years, I finally escaped private legal practice and the joys of measuring productivity in six-minute increments. Last November, I joined the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers as senior vice president, Business & Legal Affairs.”

1986 CLASS CORRESPONDENT Phil Bean
pbean@haverford.edu

Pat Salvador recently joined Haylor, Freyer & Coon Inc. as director of risk management consulting. Pat is a professional engineer with more than 28 years of progressive risk management experience in general industry, construction and consulting. He holds a master’s degree in engineering management from Syracuse University and is a member of the Air and Waste Management Association, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society of Safety.

Andrew Duke received a Ph.D. in mathematics from Northeastern University on May 1, 2014. Andrew’s research focused on the construction of combinatorial objects that exhibit a cube-like structure.

1987 CLASS CORRESPONDENT Paul Malatesta
148 Washington Avenue
Chatham, N.J. 07928
paul.malatesta@gmail.com

Doug Wilk writes, “Grant W. Foreman ’89 passed away peacefully on May 14, 2014 in Houston, Texas. He is survived by his wife Tracy, daughter Whitney and son Riley. He was a member of the Delta Phi fraternity and an integral part of the nationally ranked soccer teams from ’84-’86 and an assistant coach in 1987. He was an incredible friend to so many and will be dearly missed.” Grant is further remembered on pg. 61.

Kerrie (Ticknor) Ticknor-Droban ’87 has published four true crime books, the first two of which (Running with the Devil and Prodigal Father Pagan Son) won the USA News National Book Award for Best True Crime and Best Memoir. The third (A Socialite Scorned) is being featured in a Discovery Channel series called “The Help” and the fourth (Vagos Mongols and Outlaws) has been optioned for film. Kerrie continues to practice criminal defense in Phoenix, Ariz., where she
lives with her husband and two teenage boys.

The City of Troy, N.Y., recently hired a new city engineer. Andrew Donovan was chosen to oversee the civil and structural engineering operations, along with the Code Enforcement Department. Andrew most recently was president of his own engineering practice, and served as a full-time instructor in the Civil, Construction, Industrial and Mechanical Technologies Department at Hudson Valley Community College.

1989
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Stephanie Spencer Wiggs  
1722 Pine Street  
Livermore, Calif. 94551  
sfwcor@aol.com

Richard Aguinaldo recently accepted a position at Activu Corporation, a software and services company specializing in designing and building network-based large-scale visualization and collaboration systems located in Rockaway, New Jersey. He is chief financial officer. Richard recently was employed at ShoreTel, Inc. as finance director.

Michael Weiss and a long-time colleague, Milton Blaut, and have launched their own firm—Blaut Weiss Law Group—in Plantation, Fla. The two are experienced trial attorneys who focus their practice solely on personal injury and insurance law. Prior to opening their firm, both men were with Greenberg Traurig and have launched their own law firm—Blaut Weiss Law Group.

1990
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Mary Jo Burke  
532 Whitchurch Drive  
Charlottesville, Va. 22901  
mjcburke@earthlink.net

Lawrence D. Rosenthal ’90 watched the Dutchmen win the NCAA Division I hockey championship in April.

Development (TPD) team at Bank of America, will join its Advisory Board. Specifically, Neil will assist with the company’s go-to-market deployment strategies for its Big Data 2.0 solutions for global banks.

1991
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Karen Valyous Zador  
313 Stonehurst Parkway  
St. Augustine, Fla. 32092  
k.zador@icloud.com

Jonathan Forbes recently accepted a position at BeeX4 LLC located in Denver, Colo. as president and CEO. He recently was employed at Merrill Lynch as director. Jonathan writes, “Congratulations to the Union College Hockey Team. I left the world of investment banking behind and am now part-owner of a marijuana warehouse providing product to medical and recreational dispensaries in Colorado.”

1992
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Stephanie Fray  
Apartment 7 D  
10 West End Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10023-7828  
s fray@gmail.com

Michael Richards writes, “I reside in Fairfield, Conn. with my wife of 19 years, Rebecca (Stein) Richards ’93, and our two daughters, ages 13 and 11. We are both public school teachers. I recently had wonderful reunion with...”
MAKING AN IMPACT LIKE IT’S HER JOB (AND IT IS)

Jennifer Pryce ’94 is facilitating change in the world, and she’s doing it as president and CEO of the Calvert Foundation.

At its core, Calvert Foundation is an intermediary that focuses on impact investing—on connecting people to the causes and places they care about through investments.

“We develop new channels for individuals to align their investments with their values, as many consumers do with their purchases of cars, such as a Prius, or shoes, like Toms,” Pryce said. “By creating investment opportunities that target underserved communities and provide the investors with financial and social returns, Calvert Foundation empowers investors to change the world for the better.”

The company, based in Bethesda, Md., has several programs that allow investors to use their capital to make an impact. One, spearheaded by Pryce, is the Women Investing in Women Initiative (WIN-WIN).

“The goal of WIN-WIN is to empower women around the world,” Pryce said. “Its genesis was really a response to what we heard from our investors and their financial advisors—a strong desire to invest in support of women.”

Perhaps the effort resonates so soundly with investors because women get so little of the venture capital available in the United States.

“Women receive less than ten percent of what’s allocated to startups in their early stages,” Pryce said. “But in the U.S., women are starting businesses faster than men.”

Female-run businesses are generally more inclusive and collaborative, and studies have shown women managers improve overall company performance by bringing greater diversity to their teams, she added. “So increasing the amount of venture capital allocated to women means that our economic prospects as an entire society improve as well.”

Since its launch in 2012, WIN-WIN has invested more than $20 million in 18 organizations empowering women around the world. One such organization in Cleveland, Ga., Access to Credit for Entrepreneurs, serves women whose businesses range from pottery painting to medical supplies.

fellow alumni in California.

Jared Lacorte ’93, Jeff Maldavir ’91 and I flew out to California to spend a fantastic weekend with Andy Miller ’91 and Ron Pitluk ’91. We had some great meals in scenic Carmel and then enjoyed court side seats at a Sacramento Kings game.”

Businessolver, a benefits technology partner for mid- and large-market employers, hired Greg Morris as a senior sales consultant to focus on building relationships in the northeast region of the United States. Before joining Businessolver, Greg was a regional sales manager at Castlight Health. Prior to his role at Castlight Health, Morris served in sales positions at several HR technology vendors, including Benefitfocus, Ceridian and ADP.

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Jared Lacorte ’93, Jeff Maldavir ’91 and I flew out to California to spend a fantastic weekend with Andy Miller ’91 and Ron Pitluk ’91. We had some great meals in scenic Carmel and then enjoyed court side seats at a Sacramento Kings game.”

Businessolver, a benefits technology partner for mid- and large-market employers, hired Greg Morris as a senior sales consultant to focus on building relationships in the northeast region of the United States. Before joining Businessolver, Greg was a regional sales manager at Castlight Health. Prior to his role at Castlight Health, Morris served in sales positions at several HR technology vendors, including Benefitfocus, Ceridian and ADP.
Just over 20 years ago, six classmates graduated from Union with hopes for the future: Katherine (Brownstein) Dennin, Ann (Driscoll) Cook, Meredith (Singer) Chandler, Ally (Wheeler) Gabriele, Sarah (Rudgers) Tysz and Marie (Stahl) Sabatini. They write, “During those decades, we each continued our education, began our careers, got married, and had children. We started as six and are now 25, with husbands and children combined. During our 20 years together we have remained connected, never wavering in our support of one another. We’ve celebrated together, grieved together, and gone through life events together. So, when one of us started to participate in a great event to honor her mother, it didn’t take long for the rest to join in. In October 2013, all six walked 39.3 miles around NYC as part of the AVON Walk to raise money to help with tests, treatment, and research to battle breast cancer. All of us have been touched by this dreaded disease (one of us is a 6 1/2 year survivor) and, once again, we joined together to fight. Many of us will participate again this October so look for us if you are in NYC. Our time at Union started our journey together and we will be forever thankful.”

1995

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Caroline Paine Pannhorst
32 Nottingham Way North Clifton Park, N.Y. 12065 cpannhorst@msn.com

Eileen Barrett writes, ‘I’m writing from Gallup, N.M., where my husband, Sam, and I are living with our two dogs, Pete and Daisy. We are both physicians with the Indian Health Service, a government healthcare system that provides care to Native Americans. I’ve been deputy chief of internal medicine and heading our hospitalist program for just over a year. I was elected governor of the New Mexico Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), and am half-way through the four-year term this entails. I just wrapped up a year on the executive committee of the Board of Governors of the ACP, which was a rich and rewarding experience. When not traveling for work, we spend a lot of time skiing and hiking. I’d be delighted to hear from Union students interested in a career in internal medicine.”

Elissa (Hecker) Strauss writes, ‘David and I were at his ReUnion (94), and had a blast visiting the campus with our kids. We couldn’t believe that it was 23 years since we met on the same floor in West. It was wonderful to reconnect with folks (and their families) that we hadn’t seen in years. In other news, I practice in the entertainment and business fields. My practice focuses on copyright, trademark and business law. In addition, I edited the books Entertainment Litigation—Know the Issues and Avoid the Courtroom, In the Arena, and Counseling Content Providers in the Digital Age. I am active in many community and law organizations, and was selected repeatedly as a New York Super Lawyers Rising Star and for Top Attorneys—New York Metro Area’s Outstanding Young Lawyers. In addition, I was selected for Top Women Attorneys in New York Metro and Top Attorneys—Westchester Area’s Outstanding Young Lawyers. In addition, I was selected for Top Women Attorneys in New York Metro and Top Attorneys—Westchester Area’s Outstanding Young Lawyers; was the inaugural recipient of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A.’s 2011 Award for Excellent Service; and received the 2005 New York State Bar Association’s Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.”

1996

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Betsy Phelps Seplowitz
104 Tompion Way
Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020 bseplowitz@yahoo.com

David J. Hollander was recently named president of Sano-Rubin Construction in Albany, N.Y. Sano-Rubin had $54 million in gross billings last year as a general contractor and construction manager, and employs about 75, depending on the time of year. Recent projects include the new Shea Learning Center at Sage College, Honest Weight Food Co-op store in Albany and renovations to Monument Square, a subsidized apartment building in downtown Troy. David represents the fourth-generation of family leadership at Sano-Rubin since its founding in 1912.

The Westport Board of Education has approved the appointment of Elizabeth Mesler, assistant principal of Coleytown Elementary School, as principal of Saugatuck Elementary School. Beth, who has also served as assistant principal of Long Lots Elementary School in her 10-year career in the Westport school system, was named 2014 Elementary School Assistant
The classes


ALUMNA PENS SUCCESSFUL FIRST BOOK

Five years ago, when Anne Blankman ’01 was at home with her newborn daughter, she found a quiet moment to rummage through a box of books and notes from her senior thesis, a novella about the last days of Hitler’s life.

One book stood out: Ronald Hayman’s Hitler and Geli, which examines the relationship between Hitler and a half niece. Blankman was revisiting her fascination with the juxtaposition of innocence and the Nazi party that started at age 12, when she read Anne Frank’s The Diary of a Young Girl, and continued with her studies at Union, where she majored in English and history and graduated summa cum laude.

“I could not stop thinking about what it must have been like to be a teenage girl in [Hitler’s] inner circle,” she recalls. So, she created a fictional character, Gretchen Müller, a favorite of “Uncle Dolf,” who in time discovers that her father, a prominent Nazi Party member, may have been murdered by his own comrades.

The first-time author has penned a popular young adult fiction book, Prisoner of Night and Fog (see Bookshelf, this issue). It has been nominated for Best Fiction for Young Adults by the American Library Association. Blankman has been named a Spring 2014 “Flying Start” by Publishers Weekly. Her agent has sold rights in Holland, the U.K., Australia and New Zealand. She was invited to speak at the Edinburgh (Scotland) International Book Festival, the largest literary festival in Europe.

Prisoner of Night and Fog is the first in a three-book deal of YA fiction. A sequel, Conspiracy of Blood and Smoke, is due out next spring. Blankman is at work on a third book, set in England in 1666 that was inspired by a poetry class she took with Prof. Hugh Jenkins.

Blankman, who spoke this spring in the Alumni Writer’s Series, credits her Union professors for their continuing influence. Jordan Smith of English and Stephen Berk of History were co-advisors for her thesis and taught a number of her classes. “I took incredible classes with professors who influence me and with whom I’m still in contact,” she said. “It’s a testament to what a great community Union is.”

She also draws literary inspiration from her parents. Her mother, Lynn, published mysteries for middle grade children. Her father, Peter, retired in 2005 as Union’s longtime director of public relations and editor of this magazine.

Anne and her husband, Mike Cizenski ’01, an electrical engineer, live in Yorktown, Va. with their daughter, Kirsten, 5. Anne is a public librarian in York County, Va.

Principal of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Kathy Walter has launched her newest company, Nsoma, which conceives and delivers innovative solutions to support the instructional and educational agendas of school districts, universities and edTech companies. Kathy, CEO of Nsoma, recently served as the executive director, product strategy and innovation, at the NYC Department of Education and as business consultant for Macmillan New Ventures.

1997

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Sara Amann Garrand
367 Schauber Road
Baltston Lake, N.Y. 12019
sgarrand1@nycap.rr.com

32 Advisors has formed a new subsidiary, Measure (www.measure32.com), which provides advisory and Drone as a Service. Measure will assist a range of clients, including private companies, NGO’s, and civilian public sector agencies worldwide that can benefit from unmanned aerial systems. Measure is based in 32 Advisors’ Washington, D.C. office and is led by Brandon Torres Delet, CEO, who also serves as a principal to 32 Advisors. 32 Advisors is a cross-border business advisory firm servicing domestic and international corporations, public entities, governments, financial services firms, and high-growth businesses.

1998

CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Ryan T. Smith, MBA ’00
284 Sussex Circle
Jupiter, Fla. 33458
rsmith@thebenjaminschool.org

Peter Mody accepted a position in December at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School located in Burnt Hills, N.Y. as assistant principal. Peter recently was employed at Queensbury High School as an assistant principal. He writes: “After fifteen months as AP at Queensbury HS, an opportunity arose for me to return to Burnt Hills High School. I was previously employed there as a teacher and am now enjoying my role as an administrator. While I really enjoyed my time at QHS, I am happy to be back in Burnt Hills and as a bonus, Dave Barclay ’99 stated there as district tech director on the same day.”

Jason E. Goldberg was recently promoted to chief of the Corporate Affairs Division in the New York City Housing Authority’s Law Department.

John Cloutier writes, “I’m a project executive at Shawmut Design & Construction, working within our retail group. I can’t believe I’ve been here eight years. It’s always a new challenge and I work with some great people, including some Union alumni. We all enthusiastically cheered on the men’s
hockey team and were so happy with the win. We even gathered for a photo to post on our company’s weekly email update. My wife Stacey and I are constantly on our toes as we try to keep up with our almost 3-year-old daughter, Jessica. We have such a great time watching her grow up.”

1999
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Kellie Forrestall
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Lowell, Mass. 01850
forrestkj@hotmail.com

2000
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Erika Newell
4842 Bayard Blvd.
Bethesda, Md. 20816

2001
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Erin (Alon) Grogan
143 Streeter Hill Road
West Chesterfield, N.H. 03466
erinlgrogan@gmail.com

Josh Cahn has recently been admitted into the partnership at PricewaterhouseCoopers, working in the Health Services Advisory practice. As a principal based in the firm’s Boston office, Josh works with domestic and international health care clients through operations, financial turnaround and technology based transformation, merger and acquisition diligence and integration.

Marie Maurer writes, “In the past year, I’ve turned a 180 in my career and Christopher and I had our first child. I’m the director of operations at East Side Compost Pedallers, a startup in Austin, Texas that collects organics with 100 percent bike power. And Scarlett was born three weeks early on Aug. 29, 2013 at 6 pounds, 3 ounces and 19 inches. She smiles a lot and is the cutest thing we’ve ever seen. We are planning on moving back up to the Pacific Northwest (closer to family) by the end of this year.”

Erin Grogan writes, “In June 2014, I completed a year-long process to become a certified therapeutic riding instructor through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. While my ‘day job’ is still managing research and evaluation efforts for the New Teacher Project, I am also a volunteer riding instructor and member of the Board of Directors for Miracles in Motion (www.mimnh.org), a therapeutic riding program for individuals with disabilities in Keene, N.H.”

2002
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Gina L. Campanella
campanella.gina@gmail.com

Patrick Forrest is a major in the Marine Corps stationed at Camp Pendleton, where he flies cobra helicopters. Elizabeth Flanagan ’05 is the recruiting manager at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Diego. The couple, who married in December 2013, originally met while playing lacrosse at Union.

2003
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Katrina (Tentor) Lallier
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Danvers, Mass. 01923
katrina@alumni.union.edu

2004
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Rachel Marin
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(973) 670-7692

Maritza Puello writes, “In November I decided I’d start running after watching my brother finish yet another NYC Marathon. On January 11, 2014, I ran my first 10k. Since that day I’ve completed three 10ks, two half-marathons and a number of smaller races. I now hold a guaranteed spot for the 2015 TCS New York City Marathon, and plan to complete the 2014 NYC 5 borough challenge by running the Bronx 10-miler and Staten Island Half Marathon. The 5 borough races include the NYC Half Marathon, Brooklyn Half Marathon, Queens 10k, Bronx 10-miler and Staten Island Half Marathon.”

Emily Horsford has been promoted to senior major gifts officer at United Way in Boston. Being a certified Kripalu yoga teacher, she has been teaching yoga too. She enjoyed being back on
“Silver Linings Playbook” received no less than eight Oscar nominations in 2013. Its cast includes Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert DeNiro and a man with a theater degree from Union.

This fact, that he’s an actor, is still a little unbelievable to Phil Chorba ’05. He’d never—ever—considered the career before a broken ankle ended his college football career.

“I was still recovering, I didn’t want to walk far to class,” Chorba recalled. “North College, where I was living, was literally right next door to Yulman Theater. What was merely convenient geography altered the trajectory of my life.”

Chorba, a Chi Psi brother, acted in six large productions during his time at Union, and loved every second of it. That doesn’t mean he wasn’t nervous when he got cast as Jordie, Jennifer Lawrence’s sleazy ex-boyfriend, in “Silver Linings Playbook.”

“At first, I was terrified on the set because of all the names attached, but everyone was really cool and friendly,” Chorba said. “Bradley is warm and complimentary. Jennifer has a bubbly and sharp-witted personality and is welcoming too.”

Chorba also has numerous commercials to his name and has appeared on T.V. shows like “Lipstick Jungle,” “The Team,” “Onion Sportsdome,” and “Broad City.” He’s performed in a short horror/thriller from Indie film outfit Borderline Films, and was the anonymous title character in the dark neo-noir short flick, ‘Man with a Gun.’ He’ll appear in an episode of Steven Soderbergh’s ‘The Knick’ later this year, too.

While he’s pleased with his success, Chorba doesn’t want to see his name on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He has just two goals: to pay for his son Orson’s college education and earn enough that his family lives well.

His perfect scenario, he said, goes like this: “Someone walks by me and a second later they think, ‘Did I go to high school with that guy? How do I know him?’ Then, a few blocks after that they think, ‘Ohhh, he’s that guy from that thing—Paul Chorpa, maybe? Yeah, that’s his name, Paul Chorpa.’”

To learn more about Chorba, visit www.union.edu/magazine
Mary Olushoga has been named International Media Person of the Year by Women4Africa. Mary is founder of awpnetwork.com, an online platform powering small business success for African entrepreneurs. The AWP Network is recognized by the United Nations World Summit Youth Awards and was listed as an Apps4Africa Innovation by the United States Department of State. The AWP Network is also known to be one of the leading organizations supporting African Women.

2007 CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Nick Salvatoriello
nick.salvatoriello@gmail.com

Leigh Ann Holterman recently received a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, which recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. Leigh Ann is studying developmental psychology at the University of Vermont & State Agricultural College.

Nancy Borowick completed her first three photography assignments for the New York Times dining section in April.

WSJ’S TECH COLUMNIST

Joanna Stern ’06 has a self-described one track mind, or rather...

“I say that I have a ‘one tech mind.’ There isn’t a day that goes by that I’m not testing a new product or app, thinking about tech news or watching how people interact with their phones or computers,” she said.

The reason? She’s a tech columnist/reviewer for The Wall Street Journal.

Her weekly column, which appears on Wednesdays, is always accompanied by a video on the same topic (posted Tuesdays to wsj.com). It’s a pairing of old fashion paper and newfangled gadgetry that Stern loves—she couldn’t imagine being a journalist in just one medium.

“Thanks to the web and online publishing platforms, we have more ways than ever to tell engaging stories. Great and clear writing is still very much at the heart of that, but video adds a whole other dimension,” Stern said. “Every week, my goal is blend good information with a creative angle and sprinkle in some humor. While I started out as a writer, it’s actually hard for me to now think about a story without a video pairing.”

Whether print or online, her reviews have run the gamut and included hundreds of products like Android phones, iPads, myriad laptops, fitness bracelets, Google Glass and even a fork that pairs with your smartphone and vibrates when you eat too fast.

It’s a job she sincerely enjoys because it’s fun and educational for her, just as it is for readers. Stern thrives on knowing her reviews are resources that answer technology questions of every variety.

And she credits Union with helping make all this possible.

“I majored in political science, but crafted the major to have a strong focus on media and journalism,” Stern said. “And after starting to write consistently for Concordiensis and eventually becoming co-editor-in-chief, I became hooked.”

“I got the confidence to push boundaries and make my voice heard on paper at Union.”

To learn more about Joanna Stern, watch a video at vimeo.com/unioncollege
Abigail Adsit ’09 has been working with horses her entire life. Literally. Growing up on her parents’ horse farm near Saratoga Springs, N.Y., her first equestrian job was caring for her own pony when she was three. At eight, she became the youngest licensed groom in New York State, looking after polo ponies for the Saratoga matches. And during her summers as a Union student, she was an exercise rider seven days a week, regularly starting work at 4:30 a.m.

After graduation, she spent four years as assistant trainer to the well-respected Linda Rice, learning, growing and forging relationships in the thoroughbred racing world. Today, the 27-year-old operates her own stable, Abigail Adsit Racing Inc., at Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y.—home of the world-famous Belmont Stakes. Here, and at Aqueduct and Saratoga race tracks, Adsit trains thoroughbreds.

“Born and brought up around race horses, I have always loved them,” said Adsit, who studied English at Union. “A horse trainer is what I always wanted to be.”

A solo trainer since January 2013, she already has a few victories to her name. Her first win came on April 5, 2013 at Aqueduct with “Giant Indian.” Her second followed the next day, with “Miss Mexique” at Parx-Philadelphia.

“I am fortunate to have fabulous owners who realize more horses and owners will increase my odds of success,” Adsit said. “Since going out on my own, my owner base has grown from two to about a dozen.”

“I’m excited about the future,” she added. “My ultimate goal is to be a predominant force on the New York Racing Association circuit, broadening my owner base and increasing the quantity and quality of thoroughbreds I train.”

2008
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Dana Cohen
250 E. 63rd Street, Apt. 1001
New York, N.Y. 10065
dana.lynn.cohen@gmail.com

Ryan Cahill spent the last year in France pursuing an MBA at INSEAD. He has accepted a position with the Boston Consulting Group, out of their Sydney office and will be moving there this September. He writes, “I’m looking forward to catching up with friends from the class of ‘08 this summer in D.C. and Provence.”

Giancarlo Annese writes, “My wife, Sarah, and I wrote the book, Beer Lover’s New York, which was released in February 2014 by Globe Pequot Press.”

2009
CLASS CORRESPONDENTS
Gabe Kramer
123 North Arden Blvd.
Los Angeles, Cali. 90004
kramer39@gmail.com

Carl Winkler
2232 S. Gayoso St.
New Orleans, La. 70125
carl.s.winkler@gmail.com

Anne Benfield ‘09 teaches this second grade class, known as the Union College Dutchmen at their Brooklyn, N.Y. school

2010
CLASS CORRESPONDENT
Ewo Harrell
Orlando, Fla.
(407) 506-3713
ewo.harrell@gmail.com

Joshua Weiss received his juris doctorate degree cum laude from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. He was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in November 2013 and admitted to the New York Bar in February. Joshua joined Schroder & Strom, LLP as an associate attorney in February.

Burleigh Morton’s work was highlighted in a Westfield Historical Society exhibit, Westfield’s Own—Class of 2006, in late May and early June. Burleigh began his career as a history student at Union College and took to photographing the present and former path of the Erie Canal in a body of work about the progression of the region and the relationship between industry, photography and the populace. His focus on the commercial shipping industry and its various facets was inspired by his grandfather’s stories as an engineer in the American Merchant Marine immediately following World War II. One of Burleigh’s recent photos was included in a show at the City Museum of New York.

2011

Hilary Zelson was recently selected as lead artist for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts Community Arts Initiative Artist Project. This project involves teaching young children and is a year-long collaboration between the artist, the Museum of Fine Arts, and 10 community organizations in Boston.

2013

Tess Koman was recently profiled on www.fashion-weekdaily.com. The Q&A focused on her job as an editorial assistant at Cosmopolitan.com.
Notes from Afar

1978

Robert Dickerman recently accepted a position at Enugu Electricity Distribution Company. He writes, “Since 2013, I have been working in Nigeria as CEO of a newly privatized utility, covering the Southeast. We are restructuring the entire company to achieve our ideals of integrity, customer service and performance. Enjoying the experience very much.”

1980

Jeff Gerst writes, “I had a book published in 2011 titled RNA detection and visualization: Methods and protocols, which is part of the renowned Methods in Molecular Biology series (Springer Publishing). I was the editor and major contributor for this volume, which has had more than 28,000 chapter downloads since publication. This puts it in the top 25 percent of ebook downloads for this series in 2013.” Jeff is a professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

1985

Jonathan Heimer writes, “I survived a year in Baghdad and recently arrived in Tokyo after a 16-year absence, as the commercial counselor at the U.S. Embassy. My wife and I are very much enjoying showing our girls our old haunts and reuniting with friends, homestay families and former business colleagues.”

2001

Jason Lederer writes, “For the last six months, my wife and I have been travelling throughout Latin America. Along the way, we’ve volunteered, helping build a new national park in southern Chile and studied Spanish language in Argentina. It’s been an adventure and throughout we’ve blogged about our experiences at worldfullofpossibility.com.”

2006

Kevin Jaquez was recently relocated as trading platform delivery team lead at Fidessa Corporation, located in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She writes, “I am happy to partake in this great opportunity to grow in a new market with focus on business in all of Latin America. Certainly there will be many challenges living abroad, but if anyone is in the area I am always available.”

2008

Kaitlin Pickett writes, “So much has happened since graduation from Union in 2008. After moving to Sydney, Australia for a year, I returned to Boston, Mass., where I met my fiancé, who is from Ireland. One engagement, one cat, and one overseas move later, we are now living in London and enjoying being so easily able to explore Europe. I am working at the Courtauld Institute of Art, managing the scholarship and student travel program. We are eagerly anticipating our wedding, which will be this September in the South of France. Outside of work I continue to pursue my passion for painting in oil (www.kaitlinkraemer.com), and even have some of my work displayed in a local shop. The past six years have presented some really wonderful experiences and some very difficult challenges, but I remain thankful and optimistic about all that lies ahead.”

2011

Margaret Wilson has taken a position at Aston Education Group located in Tangshan, China as English teacher. She writes, “I have been here in China for six months already, teaching ESL. I am enjoying the challenges of being an educator and living abroad.”
then and now

BOB BERNHARDT ’73

THEN
- From Rochester, N.Y., Brighton High School (1969)
- Union B.A. in Fine Arts
- Baseball, Soccer, Glee Club, Coffee House singer, College-Community Orchestra Librarian and Stage Manager, Resident Advisor
- Bailey Prize, ECAC Medal, Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, Academic All-American Baseball Player (1973), Nott Medal (1995)
- Master’s in music from the University of Southern California School of Music

NOW
- Principal Pops Conductor, the Louisville Orchestra and the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera; and artist-in-residence, Lee University. Has been the music director of the Tucson and Amarillo symphonies; principal conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic; artistic director of Lake Placid Sinfonietta; principal guest conductor of Kentucky Opera; frequent guest conductor with Boston Pops (22 years); and guest conductor throughout North America including symphonies of Baltimore, Detroit, Edmonton, Seattle, Dallas, Houston, Rochester, St. Louis and Cincinnati.
- Hobbies include gym, golf, collecting baseball cards, teaching continuing education courses in music.
- Among distinctions, perhaps the only symphony conductor to go to spring training with the Kansas City Royals (In 1974, they suggested a life in music, he said.)
- Lives in Signal Mountain, Tenn., with wife, Nora. Two children, Alex and Charlotte, who both live and work in Seattle, and two grandchildren.
- About Union: “Union was the perfect place for a relatively rudderless student-athlete like myself. I am a proud product of the exceptional liberal arts education I received there, one that permitted and encouraged me to try things, and helped me find my way.”

JUDITH GAIL DEIN ’76

THEN
- Abraham Lincoln High School, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Union B.A. in American Studies
- Editor-in-Chief Concordiensis; Editor-in-Chief Campus Voice (investigative student newspaper); President’s Task Force on Race Relations; Women’s Caucus; President’s Commission on the Status of Women; Admissions Committee; Curricular Affairs Committee
- Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in American Studies; Bailey Cup, Delphic Society
- J.D. degree, cum laude, Boston College Law School, 1979

NOW
- United States Magistrate Judge, District of Massachusetts
- Trustee, Union College; Trustee, Massachusetts Bar Foundation; Member Board of Editors, Boston Bar Journal; Co-chair, Lindsay Fellowship Program (court-sponsored summer program for college students interested in attending law school); Co-chair, Nelson Fellowship Program (court-sponsored summer program for high school students); participant, Discovering Justice program (educational program to “connect classrooms and courtrooms”)
- Chief Magistrate Judge (2009-2012); Community Peacekeeping Award from the Community Dispute Settlement Center of Cambridge, Massachusetts; panelist on numerous continuing legal education programs
- Lives in Needham, Mass. with husband, Alan Reisch ’75. One son, Zachary Dein Reisch
Marisa M. Silveri and Amy Moylan, along with big brother Luca Jacy, welcomed Mia Tayen Moylan-Silveri on April 8, 2014. She weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. Marisa writes, “Luca enjoyed a trip to campus last fall and is excited for his sister to make her first trip to Union, maybe for the class of 1995’s 20th ReUnion next spring.”

Esther Levy and Francisco Rosario are proud to introduce Riel Levy-Rosario. They write, “Our little boy was born on April 10, 2013. He brings so much love, light and joy into our lives.”

Gretchen and John Burchett now have two daughters. Ruth Caroline was born on Dec. 26, 2012 and weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces. She joins sister Gemma, who is 3. They write, “We’re doing well and look forward to spending some time in upstate New York this summer.”

Peter “Pike” Mody (G ’00) and Amanda (Payton) Mody ’01 are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Theodore Atticus Mody. He was born on April 7, 2014 in Albany, N.Y., and weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces. Peter writes, “We welcomed Teddy two months earlier than planned, but after a month in the NICU and a month at home, he just passed his original due date and weighs over 10 pounds. He joins our two older boys, Peter IV (4.5 years) and Grant (18 months). Amanda and the boys are all doing great.”

Allison Eliscu and Andrew Goodman are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Jacob Asher Goodman. He was born on April 11, 2014 in New Hyde Park, N.Y., and weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces. They write, “Big brother Benjamin Aiden (age 3) absolutely adores his new baby brother. We moved to a new home in Plainview, N.Y., when Jacob was only 2 weeks old. Things were pretty hectic for a while but we’re finally getting settled in.”

Shana (Dangelo) Perrucci and Stephen Perrucci are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Emilia Michelle. She was born Oct. 27, 2013 in Newburyport, Mass., and weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces. She joins big sister Lucia.
Shawn (McQuade) Durant and Brian Durant are proud to announce the birth of twin boys. They were born Jan. 21, 2014 in Albany, N.Y. They write, “Landon Robert and Hunter Brian were so excited to join our family, they came seven weeks early. They are happy and healthy. Big brother, Brayden, and big sister, Alexa cannot get enough.”

Matthew Gendron and Julie Gendron are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Charles (Gendron ’00). Gendron (their 2-year old son) is happy to announce to everyone he meets that baby Charlie is doing well, and has very little hands and feet.

Allison (Cohen) Margolies and Andrew Margolies are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Paige Brooke Margolies. She was born on Feb. 27, 2014.

Pamela (Lutin) Shaplin and Peter Shaplin are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Emma Whitney. She was born on Oct. 11, 2013. Emma joins big brother Peter Barrett.

Katrina (Tentor) Lallier and Matthew Lallier are proud to announce the birth their baby girl, Madeline Scott Lallier. She was born in Boston, on Feb. 14, 2014, at 12:19 a.m. Maddie weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces, was 19.5 inches long and had lots of hair.

Ed and Laura Murphy welcomed a daughter, Quinn Eleanor Murphy, Dec. 4, 2013.

Jennifer (Eliseo) Cardinal and Brien Cardinal are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Reymond Joseph. He was born on June 16, 2014 in Columbia, S.C., and weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces. Reymond is welcomed by his parents and older sister, Elise.

Angela Morse, Josh Brainerd and big brother Jameson are proud to announce the birth of the newest addition to their family: Asher Morse Brainerd. Asher was born on March 20, 2014 at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces.
Alumni attend the wedding of Jackie Mason '03 and Burke Malek

1958
Kenneth Way and Barbra Link are happy to announce their marriage on June 14, 2014 in First Congregational Church, Haddam, Conn. They reside in North Granby and Haddam and are looking forward to a future consolidation of residences.

2003
Jackie Mason married Burke Malek at Chamard Vineyards in Clinton, Conn., Aug. 24 2013. In attendance were: Samantha Naftal, Rissa Jarrett, Lauren Stellato '04, Liza Taylor, Candice (Reddan) Moggy, Carolyn Stead, Katie James, Erica Rodriguez, Lindsay Simon '02, Leah MacLeod '02, Nina Mandel Atkinson, Alicia Anderson, Rachel Barrett Cronin and Jill Liberatore.

2005
Elizabeth Flanagan and Patrick Forrest '02 were married on Dec. 7, 2013 in Simsbury, Conn. Molly (Flanagan) Larkin served as matron of honor. Elizabeth Spies-Evans and Lauren Cuozzo were also bridesmaids. Groomsmen included Jon Schiff '02 and Matt Tepper '02. Additional alumni in attendance included: W.H. Smith '45, Travis Deak '01, Scott Dutcher '01, Ross Geisel '01, Josh Bubbs '02, Steve Burns '02, Campbell Heath '02, Kurt Kimball '02, Chase MacMullan '02, Dave Perrino '02, RJ Prossner '02, Drew Rifle '02, Matt Shortelle '03, Kate (Barber) Shortelle '03, Rob MacGregor '03, Erika (Schindler) MacGregor '03, Nicole (Carluccio) Burns '04, Joanna (Herzfeld) Perrino '04, Mike Flanagan, Ed Larkin, Christie (Lynch) Barry, Alexandra (Wasp) Loveless, Courtney (Birkins) Polhemus, Rachel (Goldberg) Nissi, Nordo Nissi ’07 and Mary Kathleen Larkin ’09.

2006
Alumni gathered for the wedding of Sarah Bills and Christopher Curcio on Aug. 10, 2013 in Arlington, Vt. Alumni in attendance
Meredith A. (Landry) Oram '07 and Robert N. Oram Jr. '07 were married Aug. 17, 2013 in Greenwich, Conn. The wedding ceremony was held at Stanwich Congregational Church, followed by a seaside reception at the Tokeneke Club in Darien, Conn. Many Union alumni were in attendance, including William Dewey, William Congdon, John Switchenko, Jenna Ondash, Matthew Burr '06, Eric Landry '11 and Elizabeth Pike '11. Meredith is employed by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Tarrytown, N.Y., working in protein expression sciences. Rob is employed by Gartner Inc. in Stamford, Conn., in the worldwide events division. Following the wedding, Meredith and Rob honeymooned in the Greek Isles. They reside in Greenwich, Conn.

Ryan Kaupelis '07 married Jennifer Meyers June 6, 2014 at the Highland's Country Club in Garrison, N.Y. Jennifer graduated from American University in 2006. They live together in a home they purchased last year in Cross River, N.Y. They are both lawyers in Westchester County. Alumni in attendance included David Korim '06, Mike Simon '06, Jamal Ricks '08, Marc Weiner '06, Nevin Smith '05, Ryan Laddey '06, Benjamin McGuire '06, Benjamin Calev, Risa Dubow and Sara Renzulli.

Carol (Behrendt) Meola '76 writes, "Peter Meola '77 and I had the pleasure of celebrating our daughter Jessica’s (’08) wedding to Mike Perillo on Aug. 17, 2013 at the Tarrytown House Estate in Tarrytown,"
N.Y. We were joined by our son, Jeff '06, my brother and sister-in-law, Tom Behrendt and Lisa Kaston '75, my father, Gary Behrendt '45, my niece, Patty Hagan '92, as well as, three generations of terrific Union alums!

Allison Lacoff and Ilya Aspis were married on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Battery Park in New York City. Alumni in attendance included the bride’s parents Dan Lacoff '81 and Helene (Grossberg) Lacoff '81, as well as Matthew Wentworth, Scott Morlando, Jenna Monaster, Adar Finkel, Sonia (Hendler) Friedman, David Friedman '06, Amanda (Silvestri) Schosid, Cristina Couri, Amanda Goodman '06, Cara Charles, Michael Stokvis, Kenneth Falcon, Erik Marx, Andy Laccetti, Dana Cohen, Alyse Sherwin, Sarah Stiles, Alexandra (Litt) Garfunkel '09, Juliana Jacobs '09, Meredith Oloff, Laura (Druskin) Feuerman '81, Cary Feuerman '79, Marty Magida '81, Felicia (Rubinstein) Magida '82, Elizabeth Weisser '81, Nicholas Sprayregen '85, David Schwartz '80, Barry Rosenberg '81 and Jay Gilburne '81.

Amanda Silvestri married Lee Schosid on December 7 at the Loeb Central Park Boathouse in New York City. The couple resides in Manhattan. Jessica Rudin, Lara Levine, Jenny Riskin, Jessica Meola and Erin Lawson attended as bridesmaids. Other alumni who celebrated from the Class of 2008 included Mia Rothweiler, Cristina Couri, Meredith Brown, Abigail Weiner, Stephanie Hargadon, Alexandra Sparks, Elizabeth O’Connor, Allison Lacoff, Sonia Hendler, Andrew Cummings and Michael Mcguire. Patrick Wilson '09, Marc Magee '07, Lauren Brickman '07 and David Friedman '06 were also in attendance.

2009

Rachel Fitz and Brian Glavotsky are happy to announce their marriage on May 24, 2014 in Woodbury, N.Y. They reside in West Orange, N.J. Alumni in attendance included Class of 2009 members Toby Beckelman (maid of honor), Lilly von Bucher Kesner, Monica Vielkind, Elizabeth Nyberg, Lacey Morgan, Natalie Bernardi and Jacqueline Bachelet. Rachel is an anesthesia resident at St. Barnabas Medical Center, while Brian is a CPA and just received his master’s in taxation.

Jordan Silletti and Thomas “Win” Schellens '07 are happy to announce their marriage on May 24, 2014 in Chappaqua, N.Y. Jamie Schellens ’10, Christine Farrell and Elta Kolo were members of the wedding party. Also celebrating were Ryan Skeuse, Owen Cope ’07, Katrina Neiley ’10, Russ Spiegel ’07, Erin Campbell ’07, Brenna Elliott ’07, Lyndsey Rariden ’07, Mike Epstein ’07, Julie Vairo, Peter Wright ’07, Matt Carlson ’07, Lauren Brown ’11, Anne Woodward ’11, Paul Tracy ’07,
Ken Reiser ’12, Alex Dacey ’07, Cooper Hammarlund ’07, Carly Mand ’10, Peter Farmer ’07, Jude Mason ’08, Drew Rariden ’07, Evan Bargnesi ’07, and Erik Wagner ’07. Jordan and Win live and work in Manhattan.

Aron Mandel and Caroline (Rebhun) Mandel ’05 are pleased to announce their marriage on March 8, 2014. Alumni in attendance included Michael McAndrew, Andrew Scaplen, Jennifer Turacamo ’08, Ryan Deck, Chris Lewis ’05, David Bergman, Brendan Kennedy, Peter Hart, Caitlin McGuire ’10, Brandon Aloum, Megan Beveridge ’05, Lindsay Hagopian ’05, Benjamin Miller, Lyndsay Mach Sherer ’05, Abbey Lewis ’05, Kara Mac Corkindale ’05, Chad Rebhun ’08, Samuel Elias, Jill Radwin ’11 and Meredith Crawford ’10. Aron is an associate with Hoagland Longo, a full-service regional law firm headquartered in New Brunswick, N.J., where he is practicing litigation defense with an emphasis on employment and civil rights claims. Aron recently completed a clerkship in the Chancery Division of the N.J. Superior Court for the Hon. Frederic Kessler and Hon. Katherine Dupuis, after graduating from Rutgers School of Law—Camden (cum laude) May 2013. Caroline practices occupational therapy at JFK Hospital in Edison, N.J.
1930s

John Emans ’36, of Peterborough, N.H., who was a U.S. Navy officer during World War II before becoming an executive at Schenectady Varnish Co. and then a managing petroleum distributorship in Randolph, Vt., May 2, 2014. John, who enjoyed golf, fishing, skiing and the outdoors, was 100.

1940s

Joseph A. Russum ’40, of Devon, Penn., a graduate of Cornell University Law School who spent 30 years with Atlantic Richfield Company, rising to manager of marketing operations, and served with the U.S. Army in the 26th Infantry Division during World War II, winning several honors, including the Bronze Star and Croix de Guerre with clusters, April 4, 2014. He was 96.

A. Arthur Davis III ’41, of West Palm Beach, Fla. and formerly of Palm Beach, who served in the U.S. Naval Reserve aboard the U.S.S. Alamance during World War II, graduated from Yale Law School and was a partner at Wharton, Stewart & Davis in Somerville, N.J., May 2, 2014. A member and leader of many community and professional organizations, he was 95.

Hyman Sugarman ’41, of North Andover, Mass. and formerly of Marblehead and Danvers, a World War II U.S. Army MP veteran and Harvard graduate, Feb. 2, 2014. He was 94.

Robert W. Breiling ’44, of Malvern, Penn., a World War II veteran who served with the Army Air Force as a B-17 pilot and worked in GE’s Reentry Space Division designing guidance systems for ICBM warheads before joining RCA PRICE Systems in Cherry Hill, May 1, 2014. A member of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, he was 91.

Dr. Reginald J. Carroll ’45, of Whitehall, N.Y., a graduate of Tufts College Dental School who remained in private practice in Whitehall until retiring in 1985, April 20, 2014. He was 91.

Milton H. Ellerin ’48, of Brooklyn, N.Y., a veteran who served in World War II during D-Day, was a member of counter-intelligence in the Korean War, and who attended Harvard Law School before practicing law for 50 years, March 19, 2014. He was 89.

Dr. Ernest P. Mennillo ’48, of Providence, R.I., a World War II veteran and B-17 pilot who served with the U.S. Army Air Corps before practicing pediatrics in Cranston for 50 years, Jan. 22, 2013. Ernest, who was chief of pediatrics at Kent County Memorial Hospital and spent many years as pediatrician for Cranston schools, was 90.

Robert Riesner ’49, of Boca Raton, Fla., who was president of a number of discount department store chains, was a business consultant in the bankruptcy and retail industries, and is credited as one of the founders of Toys ’R Us, Feb. 27, 2014. He was 85.

Donald Sirkin ’49, of Seattle, Wash., who served in the U.S. Army, owned Data and Staff Service Co., started a construction contractors newspaper called Contractors Weekly, and also operated Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company, May 2, 2014. Don, who sold his paper to McGraw Hill in the 1980s and grew CBIC to over $100 million in surplus, was 86.

1950s

Ronald F. Tucker Jr. ’50, of Bloomington, Ind., a Navy veteran who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, earned a doctorate in physics from the University of Illinois and was a research scientist and design engineer who retired from Sargent and Lundy Engineering, April 18, 2014. He was 87.

E. Raymond Jablonski ’50, of Glen Cove, N.Y., who earned an engineering degree at Union before starting his own business, and who enjoyed restoring old cars and boats, and designing some of the first equipment to land on the moon, April 13, 2014.

Sherman Halpert ’50, of Boca Raton, Fla., who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and spent his career in the lighting division at General Electric, Dec. 5, 2013. Sherman, whose father, Henry Halpert ’23, and son, Harris Halpert ’78, also attended Union, was 86.

Richard A. Sitts ’51, of Ballston Spa, N.Y., an electrical engineer at General Electric from 1951 until 1994 who was a member of several professional organizations, including IEEE, and who was a member of the Octavo Singers for 38 years, March 7, 2014. Named a fellow of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in 1988, he was 84.

Walter Gross ’51, of Schenectady, N.Y., a graduate of Union who practiced with the Gordon, Siegal Law Firm for more than 20 years and who once served as a U.S. magistrate, March 7, 2014. A co-founder of Better Neighborhoods Inc. who drew up charters for the Girls Club and served on many charitable organizations, he was 84.

Dr. Harold Arthur Burnham ’51, of Glen Cove, N.Y., who served in the Army Medical Corps and CIA in Paris before earning a medical degree from the University of Maryland and serving as a senior executive with pharmaceutical companies and becoming a clinician in medicine at Nassau County Public Health Department, May 2014. Harold, who also held clinical teaching positions at Stony Brook University School of Medicine and worked with many medical organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, was 85.

Stephen B. Dietz Jr. ’51, of Richmond, Va., who served with the U.S. Navy as a surface warfare officer before beginning a long career as an aerospace engineer with General Electric and becoming scoutmaster of Troop 551 (King of Prussia, Penn.), June 20, 2014. Stephen, who worked on the Apollo moon program, was involved in developing the first generation of weather satellites and was active at St. Bede’s Parish, was 84.

Harry A. Petrik ’51, of Boulder, Colo., who owned Triple S Industries, was an active member of the Elks and the Knights of Columbus, and enjoyed fishing, golf and reading, June 4, 2014. He was 85.

Alexander MacCormick ’52, of New York, N.Y. and Locust Valley, N.Y., who earned an M.B.A. from New York University and spent many years as director of SI Group Inc., formerly Schenectady Chemicals Inc., April 1, 2014. A member of many organizations, including the Royal Sydney Golf Club in Australia and Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, he was 83.
Harry G. Silleck Jr. ’40, a prominent attorney and railroad president, died March 30, 2013 at the age of 92. A native of Putnam Valley, N.Y., he was educated in a one-room schoolhouse where through individualized attention he earned a high school diploma and admission to Union when he was just 15. At Union he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was a member of the Philomathean Society, an organization devoted to the discussion of law and politics.

After Union, he earned a law degree from Columbia Law School, graduating in 1943 at the height of World War II. He entered the Army Air Corps and rose to the rank of first lieutenant. He flew 31 missions in Europe as a navigator on B-24 bombers stationed in England. He was discharged in June 1945, a month after VE Day.

A corporate attorney specializing in railroad matters, he was a partner in the New York City firm of Dorr, Hand, Whittaker & Watson. The firm later merged with Nixon, Mudge, Rose, Guthrie & Alexander. Richard Nixon was a partner of the firm before his election as President in 1968. Before Mr. Silleck retired, the firm’s name changed to Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, Alexander & Ferdon. He was chairman of the firm from 1978 to 1985 and served as counsel into the early 1990s.

Howard R. Sandler ’52, of Eastham, Mass. and formerly of Westport, who served in the Army during the Korean War before working in sales and management at Lysander Tufted Products and later at Kraft Foods, April 30, 2014. An avid kayaker who served on the Eastham Planning Board and was its chairman from 1998 to 2008, Howard was 84.

Harold Emerson Jones ’52, of Round Rock, Texas, a professional engineer who spent most of his career as an electrical engineer at IBM in Fishkill and Endicott, N.Y., and received an Outstanding Contribution Award from IBM for one of his test equipment designs and two patents, March 27, 2014. Harold, who was 86, enjoyed living in a motor-home with his wife full-time for four years during retirement.

Richard G. Heimann ’53, of New York City, a photographer and cinematographer whose credits include director of photography for the movie, Godspell, died Aug. 20, 2013 at the age of 81. At Union, he was involved in Mountebanks, lacrosse and Concordiensis.

Robert H. Hochuli ’53, of Colfax, N.C., who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, spent 25 years in the hosiery industry and was scoutmaster of Troop 525 for 16 years, winning the Silver Beaver for his commitment to Boy Scouts of America, Feb. 24, 2014. A member of many community organizations, including the American Red Cross, he was 82.


Robert B. Slaughter Jr. ’54, of Fairport, N.Y., who served in the U.S. Air Force and worked at American Can Company and Eastman Kodak Company before retiring in 1991, May 1, 2014. Robert, who was known for his woodworking projects, photography, gardening and cooking, built dulcimers and taught himself to play.

Leonard A. Traina ’55, of Roseville, Calif., who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, served in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, and retired from New Mexico State University as a professor in 1997, Jan. 14, 2014. A member of many professional organizations and the first recipient of the College of Engineering’s Frank Bromilow Award for Excellence in Teaching, he was 80.

Jack Jacob Woolf ’55, of Charlotte, N.C., who worked for Turner Construction Company before becoming CEO of Crow Construction and senior vice president of J.A. Jones Inc., and who founded Construction Solutions No.1 Inc., March 23, 2014. A life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers who was active in Boy Scouts and held leadership roles in Troop 116, he was 81.

E. Dale Christie ’55, of Orlando, Fla., who served in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at SAC headquarters in Omaha, Neb., before becoming an executive with New York Telephone Company and later transferring to Orlando with AT&T, April 25, 2014. A community volunteer who enjoyed golfing and cooking, he was 81.

Donald Leonard Lansing ’56, of Newport News, Va., who earned a master’s in math from VPI (now Va. Tech) and spent 37 years with NASA, working as assistant division chief in acoustics before moving on to computer graphics, May 21, 2014. Donald, who taught calculus at CNC and worked with children at Jefferson Lab promoting interest in math and science, was 79.
D r. Michael L. Stein ’55, of Belfast, Maine, who dedicated his life to pediatrics and caring for others, died April 7, 2014. He was 80.

A graduate of New York University School of Medicine, Michael practiced with Milford Pediatrics in Milford, Conn. from 1965 until 1993. During those years, he also worked in the pediatric gastroenterology clinic at Yale-New Haven Hospital and taught clinical pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine. From 1962 until 1964, he was base pediatrician at Tinker Air Force Base (Okla.).

Upon retiring and moving to Belfast in 1994, Michael continued his dedication to those in need of care, serving pro-bono at the well-child clinic run by Belfast Public Health Nursing Association. Active in the Belfast community in many other ways, he was chair of the Harbor Committee and the Assessment Review Board, and a member of the T-2000 committee. An avid sailor, he served on the board of the Penobscot Marine Museum for 10 years. Michael’s civic devotion also extended to his alma mater. He and his wife, Judy, established a generous charitable trust that will equally benefit Union and Mt. Holyoke.

Lawrence, who was 80, was a dedicated supporter of Union athletics, founding the Gilman Cup in 1997 to help rekindle rowing at the College.

Dr. Michael Stein ’55, of Canoga Park, Calif., July 14, 2013. He was 79.

Jon W. Borough ’63, of Greenwhich, Conn., who held an M.B.A. from New York University, was an executive vice president of A.R. Schmeidler & Co. in New York, and was involved in the Confrerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin for more than 40 years, Feb. 20, 2014. He was 72.

John H. Wyman ’63, of Rocheester, N.Y., a professor of electromechanical engineering at Norwalk State Technical College (Conn.) for 35 years who also taught at Cape Fear Community College (Wilmington) and founded Nexus Engineering (Wilton, Conn.), April 20, 2014. Lawrence, who was 72, was a dedicated supporter of Union athletics, founding the Gilman Cup in 1997 to help rekindle rowing at the College.

Douglas R. McCuen ’64, of New Baltimore, N.Y., a U.S. Air Force veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star for service in Vietnam, graduated from Albany Law School, worked for the New York State Assembly for 15 years, and then led government relations at Niagara Mohawk until his retirement in 1999, Feb. 27, 2014. A member of many community organizations, he was 72.

David C. Radez ’68, of Morehead, Ky., who held a master’s degree from Cornell University and was a hospital administrator in New York City before becoming a real estate broker, June 5, 2014. David, who founded Money Matters Inc. and offered financial planning services in Lexington until retiring in 2009, was 68.

John E. “Jack” Drescher ’56, of Raleigh, N.C., who served with the U.S. Air Force before beginning a 35-year career with IBM, and who was IBM’s point person in working with the National Science Foundation to create national computer network connecting 250 college campuses, June 21, 2014. Jack, who volunteered at Cardinal Gibbons High School and was a passionate sports fan, was 79.

Robert A. Stute ’57, of Altamonte Springs, Fla. and formerly of Beavercreek, Ohio, Sept. 27, 2013. He was 78.

John E. Peek ’58, of Salem, Ore., a U.S. Navy veteran and member of the St. Georges Lodge #6 F&AM for 60 years who worked for Xerox in Woodland Hills, Calif. from 1969 until retirement in 1989, Feb. 8, 2014. He was 86.

Carl Richard Cole ’58, of Rochester, N.Y., a graduate of Albany Law School who served in the Navy Civil Engineering Corps and spent his law career at Harter, Secrest and Emry, where he was managing partner, April 11, 2014. He was 77.

Rev. Julian K. Schellkopf ’58, of Colonie, N.Y., a priest at several Episcopal churches, including St. Peters Episcopal Church in Albany and St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in South Glens Falls, Jan. 4, 2014. He was 77.

1960s

Raymond Laning Jr. ’62, of Colonie, N.Y., who resided in Rochester, N.Y. most of his life and worked as an insurance agent for Marsh McClennan Insurance, and who traveled extensively throughout Europe and was an avid reader and square dancer, March 15, 2014. He was 73.
1970s

Donald S. Haviland ’70, of Port Townsend, Wash., an arborist who ran a landscape business, and who served on the North Bend city council for four years, Jan. 7, 2014. An avid sailor who taught skiing at Crystal Mountain and Alpental, he was 65.


Joseph E. Kaknes ’73, of Islita, Costa Rica, who spent many years in Gloucester, Mass., where he started the Gloucester Magazine before becoming a mortgage broker, March 5, 2014. Joe, an impressionist painter, also worked on several presidential campaigns. He was 63.

Stephen K. Bobik ’73, of Delmar, N.Y., a mechanical engineer who spent many years at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory before retiring in 2006, and who was an avid fisherman and accomplished cross-country runner, April 22, 2014. Founder and president of the Knolls Fishing Club at KAPL, he was 69.

Curtis Montague ’73, of Wadmalaw Island, S.C., March 31, 2014. He was 62.

Thomas P. Hope ’73, of Norcross, Ga., who earned a master’s in accounting from SUNY Albany, was a certified public accountant with Cluett & Peabody and was an accounting manager for several other Atlanta firms, May 12, 2014. Thomas, who enjoyed poetry and playing guitar, was also an accounting professor at Gwinnett Technical College.

Ellen Louise Gill-Stinebeck ’74, of Marshfield, Mass., who spent many years as a clinician and program manager at Kent County Mental Health while running her own practice in counseling adults and children, April 3, 2014. Ellen, who wrote A Civil General with her husband, was 71.

Norman Edward Donaldson ’74, of Slingerlands, N.Y., Jan. 30, 2013. He was 64.

Gregory C. Lyons ’76, of Weybridge, Vt., who operated the family business, Lyons Place, before starting Greg Lyons Construction, and who operated the first ice cream truck in town, March 4, 2014. Active in many organizations, including the Middlebury Recreation Department and the Lions Club, he was 59.

Patricia “Pat” Molloy ’78, of Lakeway, Texas, who worked at Goldman Sachs and was a loan officer at Chase Manhattan Bank before dedicating herself to raising her family, March 27, 2014. She was 57.

Michael R. Forcier ’78, of Wellesley Island, N.Y., who attended law school at Capital University, practiced law until 2012, and was a volunteer firefighter who started the Rescue Dive Team, June 17, 2014. A member of the Watertown Elks Lodge 496, the Association of the United States Army and the Hospice Foundation Board, he was 58.

George C. Sax ’79, of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., who enjoyed a career with IBM as an engineer until his retirement from the East Fishkill facility in 2012, and who was an avid bowler who enjoyed reading, cooking and gardening, May 18, 2014. He was 56.

1980s

Grant W. Foreman ’89, of Houston, Texas, who worked at Symantec, was a long-time member of Cornerstone Church, loved sports and coaching multiple youth teams, and had a passion for music, particularly jazz, May 14, 2014. He was 50.

1990s

Edward F. Vassallo ’90, of New York, N.Y., a board member of the Labyrinth Theater Company who was an actor and producer, and worked on the likes of War of the Worlds (2005), Keep the Lights On (2012) and Roberta (1999), Feb. 25, 2014. A Delta Chi fraternity brother during his Union days, he was 45.

Courtney L. Rogers ’99, of Englewood, Colo. and formerly Topsfield, who was a consultant for KPMG in New York City before moving to Denver to work in Kaiser Permanente’s Strategic Planning Group, and who ran the 2001 Honolulu Marathon and several half-marathons and 200-mile team relays, April 2, 2014. An avid tennis player, she was 37.

2000s

Lisa J. Voltz ’11, of Hopewell Junction, N.Y., a master’s student in social work at Nazareth and Brockport colleges, June 3, 2014. She was 25.

Friends of Union College

Robert M. Finks, of Catskill, N.Y. and formerly of Queens, who retired as a professor of paleontology at Queens College, City University of New York, in 2001 before becoming a research professor in geology at Union in 2003, May 25, 2014. He was 87.

Leigh A. Stevens, of Schodarie, N.Y. who served Union in many capacities between 1998 and 2005, and who worked in the mail room before leaving to join Evoke Style, March 6, 2014. Leigh, who enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, skiing and traveling, was 56.

William B. Bennett, of Oklahoma City, Okla., who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester and taught economics at Union for four years before becoming chair of economics at the State University of New York at Buffalo, March 1, 2014. He was 77.

Paul C. Borra, of Schenectady, N.Y., an Army veteran and former chief at the Schonow Volunteer Fire Department who was a New York State Trooper for 25 years before working in security at Union College, April 18, 2014. He was 84.

Charles “Gary” Malacynski, of Galway, N.Y., who spent 19 years at Union as the grounds and transportation supervisor, and who later worked for the state Department of Transportation, May 5, 2014. A member of Galway Fish & Game Club, he was 63.

Thomas E. Demarest Sr., of Schenectady, N.Y., a member of the Local 570 Carpenters Union who spent many years working for the College, and who was known for lending a helping hand and making people laugh, May 1, 2014.

Lucy Guerriero, of Schenectady, N.Y., who was a clerk for J.M. Fields before working in housekeeping at Ellis Hospital and Union College, and who was a parishioner of St. Anthony’s Church, June 4, 2014. She was 94.
Sometimes one career is not enough

BY DAVID OGAWA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF VISUAL ARTS

We like to think of multitasking and career flexibility as contemporary phenomena, but the work of one Union alumnus of the 19th century was diverse enough to put even the most accomplished “Renaissance man” to shame.

William James Stillman was born in Schenectady in 1828, into a family of staunch Seventh-Day Baptists. Though a somewhat sickly and weak child, he developed a deep and abiding love of nature and an exploratory spirit in the then-wild Mohawk Valley. At Union, he was profoundly influenced by Eliphalet Nott’s intellectual generosity and rigor, which helped him reconcile his faith in divine providence with empiricism, reason and critical thinking.

Stillman graduated in 1848 and moved to New York City to become an artist—something not taught at Union at the time. He studied briefly with the painter Frederic Edwin Church, but soon began writing about art instead. In 1855, he co-founded The Crayon, America’s first periodical dedicated exclusively to the fine arts. As editor, Stillman promoted ideas drawn from the influential British art critic John Ruskin, the modern French Realist movement, and the progressive transcendentalism of Ralph Waldo Emerson. The Crayon articulated a distinctly American aesthetic, one that looked back to the old world while celebrating the unique visual character of the new.

In the late 1850s, Stillman took up photography, which at the time required knowledge and skills in fields ranging from optics to chemistry. In 1859, he published one of the first photographic portfolios of the Adirondacks, which included views that showcased both the grand and the intimate beauty of the mountain wilderness. The portfolio was dedicated to the group of intellectuals who joined him on a two-week camping trip on Follensby Pond (about six miles southeast of Tupper Lake) in 1858. “The Philosopher’s Camp,” as it was known, included famed scientist Louis Agassiz, poet James Russell Lowell and Emerson himself.

Stillman also memorialized the trip in a painting (now in the Concord Free Public Library) that depicts this group of luminaries in camp, immersed in nature and bathed in sparkling light. It was a particularly transformative experience for Emerson, who celebrated the trip and Stillman’s prowess as a woodsman in his poem, The Adirondacks, of 1867.

In 1861, Stillman was appointed Consul to Rome by William Henry Seward (Class of 1820), with the endorsement of their mutual mentor Nott. In 1865, he transferred to the Consulate in Crete, where he was active in the movement to obtain political independence from the Ottoman Empire. In addition to his diplomatic duties and political activism, he also developed a passion for archaeology and conducted early exploratory studies of sites on the island.

From Crete, Stillman went to Athens, where he produced an important portfolio of photographs of the Acropolis, published in London in 1870. He was the first photographer to study the site systematically and scientifically: he used a special lens to minimize optical distortion, and photographed the buildings from consistent distances to convey a uniform sense of their scale. Celebrated at the time, Stillman’s Acropolis photographs now figure in...
such collections as the Getty Museum and the Avery Library at Columbia University. Union’s Special Collections houses a unique set of prints from 1882 that duplicates and elaborates on this pioneering photographic work.

Stillman continued to draw and paint, and maintained close connections to contemporary art in both Britain and the US. His second wife, Marie Spartali, was a prominent painter of the Pre-Raphaelite movement, and their circle included Ruskin, the poet-artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and the designer-reformers William and Jane Morris. He continued to write art criticism, and in the 1870s began covering contemporary political events.

In 1886, he was appointed permanent correspondent at the Times of London for Greece and Italy. Based in Rome, he spent the next twelve years until his retirement traveling Europe and the U.S. He wrote on such contemporary events as the insurrections in the Balkans against Ottoman rule, the deadly clashes between Italian and Irish gangs in New York and New Orleans in 1891, and the scandalous bankruptcy of the Italian Banca Romana in 1893.

His last decade saw publications on a variety of subjects: a history of the unification of Italy, a biography of the Italian statesman Francesco Crispi, an archaeological work titled On the Track of Ulysses, and a study of the figures of Venus and Apollo in art. He also served as a consultant to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on its collection of ancient art from Cyprus, and was active in the Archaeological Institute of America, whose founding president was his close friend Charles Eliot Norton, the first professor of the history of art at Harvard.

Stillman completed his Autobiography of a Journalist less than a year before his death in 1901. It is an engaging chronicle of his international adventures as a painter, art critic, diplomat, photographer and reporter. Aside from his many concrete contributions to the artistic and cultural life of the late 19th century, Stillman truly lived out the principles of the liberal arts through his intellectual curiosity, his capacity for critical thinking, his aesthetic sensitivity, and his enduring, active engagement with the world. 

For a photo gallery of Stillman’s work, visit www.union.edu/magazine
I've always extolled the Union hockey team for its accomplishments. Now, having won the NCAA Division I National Championship in April, my admiration for the team knows no bounds.

To me, this latest achievement ranks with the momentous victory of team USA over team Russia in the 1980 Olympics. Minnesota has been a powerhouse in college hockey for years, winning a number of championships in the past. Union scoring four goals in the first period and scoring three goals in 1 minute, 56 seconds was in itself history making.

As a former skating Dutchman myself, I could not be more proud.

It was 1948 when I went out for the hockey team. The weather was mild before Christmas break and we practiced in the gym, simply shooting at a goal. Our goalie had no helmet or mask.

During the break the team was scheduled to play in a round robin tournament at Hamilton College. Also participating were Lehigh, St. Lawrence and Middlebury. Hamilton's rink was indoors so we were assured of good ice. We won one game out of four, beating Lehigh.

In 1949, my second year on the team, we played pretty much the same schools, including one in Plattsburgh, a new state college to accommodate veterans. That was the last year Union had a hockey team until Achilles Rink was constructed in 1975.

The interesting thing is that the Fieldhouse was built in the same location as the hockey rink that the College made in the 1930s. I was only eight years old when the creek was damned and the water diverted to make that regulation hockey pond. The Union administration generously allowed us locals (I grew up in Schenectady) to use the rink in the evening and it was a very popular spot.

Now in my 89th year, I have been able to see Union hockey emerge as the national college champion. It is notable, in this wonderful victory, that there are no scholarships for sports at Union. All those great teams have developed over the years from hard work on and off the ice.

Needless to say I have followed the growth of this greatness with delight and pride. Good job, guys! Well done.

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