On May 19, Union College students set off for a 10-day study tour of Tuscany. The trip, which followed a semester-long class on the history and literature of the region of Italy, can be glimpsed by the exhibit of student photographs in the Ortner Center until Sept. 4. The next exhibit will feature art by Jim McClelland.

Scot Anderson’s academic publication, “Verifying the Incorrectness of Programs and Automata,” was presented in Edinburgh, Scotland, on July 29 during the 6th International Symposium on Abstraction, Reformulation and Approximation (SARA ’05).

Kathy Bollinger, Bruce Forbes, Malcolm Russell, Mandy Bascom ’02, Kory Meidell and Ken Mohrhoff participated in the 30th Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) from July 24-30. The journey stretched 485 miles, an average of 70 miles a day, with 15,000 cyclists from across the world. Russell first participated in RAGBRAI in 1980 and has completed at least 15 trips since. This year, after a storm soaked her clothes and shoes, Bollinger biked the remaining 420 miles in flip flops.

Sylvester Case was a speaker for the Greater New York Conference Camp Meeting at Camp Berkshire from July 29-Aug. 6.

The Junior Achievement of Lincoln presented Barry Forbes with an Exceptional School Liaison Award on Aug. 17 for organizing and encouraging Union student volunteers to make presentations in Lincoln elementary schools.

Mark Robison presented “The Comic Impulses of A Lost Lady: Reading Marian Forrester as Picara” at the International Cather Seminar in Lincoln on June 24.

At the General Conference Session in St. Louis, David Smith was nominated to be on the General Conference Executive Committee. Smith is one of only five representatives chosen from North America.

On Aug. 31, Union College students sold magabooks and recruited at the Nebraska State Fair where 15,000-19,000 people were expected to attend. The two booths, usually costing $300 per 10 days, were free thanks to a woman Katie and Jared Miller met this summer while selling magabooks.

The third annual Library Fair will be Sept. 8 from 3-7 p.m. There will be free food, prizes and a space exploration theme.

Soup Suppers are replacing vespers on Sept. 9. Faculty and staff, don’t forget to invite students early in the week.

Union’s second annual Triathlon is Sept. 11. Individuals and teams run 5 km (3.11 mi.), bike 10 km (6.21 mi) and swim 0.4 km (0.25 mi.). Participants begin the race at 9 a.m. and receive a free t-shirt. Prizes will be given for the first three individuals and teams to finish. Volunteers are needed to support participants. Call Jamie at ext. 2508 to help.

Close to 40 books have been nominated for the college-wide reading program, “One Book One Union.” Entries include, A Thousand Shall Fall by Susi Hasel Mundy, I am the Cheese by Robert Cormier and The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. To nominate your favorite book, e-mail the title and author’s name by Sept. 16 to sariley@ucollege.edu.

A church, campus and community Volunteer Fair is planned for Sept. 17, 12-3 p.m., near the College View church. Those interested in volunteering or recruiting ministry volunteers can call Campus Ministries for more information (ex. 2508).

The 22nd annual Phonathon will begin Sept. 18 and end Nov. 3. It will employ 30 students to raise a goal of $250,000 for the Union College Fund. Contact Breanna Johnson (ext. 2033) for more information.

On Sept. 18, all are invited to hear a free presentation by Gandhi’s grandson called, “Lessons Learned From My Grandfather.” The trip to Omaha is sponsored by Union’s Peace and Social Justice Club. For more information contact Ashley Bohlender at asbohlen@ucollege.edu or call ext. 2523.
✦ In July, **Becky Stafford** attended a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) conference in Washington, D.C. Stafford is an ambassador of NHSC which helps recruit and place health care professionals in medically underserved areas.

**People Placements**

- **Ed Allen**—associate professor of religion
- **Tomas Bartulec**—library supervisor
- **Ashley Bohlender ’05**—office assistant in the Division of Humanities
- **Kendra Carlson ’04**—mailroom assistant and Career Center office assistant
- **Donene Caster**—assistant dean of women
- **Tonya Cochran**—assistant professor in the Division of Humanities
- **Lynn Davis ’84**—now works as Union Scholars project assistant
- **Jennifer Enos**—now works as assistant director of Admissions
- **Bob Fetrick**—now serves as chair of the Division of Religion
- **Shane Flowers ’03**—computer technician in Information Systems
- **Breanna Johnson ’05**—annual giving coordinator in the Advancement office
- **Jeff Jorgensen**—now is Union’s custodial supervisor
- **John Kurlinski**—associate professor of religion
- **LeAnn Merth**—now serves as dean of women
- **Nathan Shields**—now an enrollment advisor in Enrollment and Student Financial Services
- **Greg Steiner ’00**—intramurals director, head coach of women’s varsity basketball and teacher in the health and human performance program
- **Kimberly Steiner ’01**—assistant professor in the Division of Business and Computer Science
- **Doug Tallman**—associate director for the international rescue and relief program in the Division of Health Sciences
- **Sandy Tallman**—office assistant for the religion and human development divisions
- **Ben Yancer ’05**—office assistant in the Teaching Learning Center

**Kudos**

✦ “Many thanks to all those who helped with the Student Move-In on Aug. 12 and 14. Parents and students are so appreciative of the help. Thanks for helping them ‘Experience the Spirit!’”
~Janya Mekelburg

✦ “Thank you to **Breanna Johnson, Fred Lorenz, Stephanie and Jeff Meyers, Mindy Mekelburg, Todd Mekelburg, Athena Merana, Laura Poblete, Jacque Smith and Sharon Russell** for all their amazing help during the Welcome Back Pizza Feed. They made feeding 450+ people seem so easy!”
~Janya Mekelburg

**Campus Trivia**

✦ In 1974 Union began a large fundraising program of painting houses for student missions. Seven years later, it became an outreach campaign to paint houses of those who needed assistance. Then on Aug. 27, 1992, after 10 years of painting more than 100 houses, **Project BRUSH** (Beautifying Residences Using Student Help) took on a variety of service activities and became **Project Impact**, with 200 students and faculty. This year, approximately 650 students and faculty gave 4,000 hours of service to 50 sites throughout Lincoln. Next year will be the 25th anniversary of Union’s community service day.

✦ Why is Union’s field by College View Academy called, “Forty-niners’ Field”? Look in the next Campus Conversations for the answer.

**Web Tip**

✦ Union’s Web site is continually in a state of change. Along with standard updates for the new school year, check out several new features:

- **Rachel Turner’s** class project from Union’s summer Tuscany tour: [www.ucollege.edu/scholars](http://www.ucollege.edu/scholars)
- **New faculty and staff** added to the personnel directory: [www.ucollege.edu/personneldirectory](http://www.ucollege.edu/personneldirectory)
- **Student life photo gallery**: Prospective Students
- **Intramurals flagball schedule**: [www.ucollege.edu/intramurals](http://www.ucollege.edu/intramurals)
- **New promotional site for the physician assistant program**: [www.ucollege.edu/pa](http://www.ucollege.edu/pa). This supplemental site, made possible by a grant, features video interviews with students and graduates, case studies and PA career information. This site does not replace academic content on Union’s official Web site.

**Share in the conversation.**

Submit information for Campus Conversations or other public relations purposes to news@ucollege.edu or fill out the Campus News Form under “News and Publications” at [www.ucollege.edu](http://www.ucollege.edu). Information needed by Sept. 12 for the next issue.

Edited by Becky Dewey