Who’s New on Campus

We welcome all the new faculty, staff and students joining us for this 2011-12 year. Take a minute to get to know the new employees and congratulate those with new positions.

New Employees

 Brittney Blankenship has joined the Teaching and Learning Center as office coordinator. She graduated from Walla Walla University with a bachelor’s degree in English and minors in Spanish and history. She has spent most of her life in Spangle, Wash., until recently when she spent a year volunteering as an English teacher in Lima, Peru.

 Gillian Connors has joined the library staff as technical and electronic services librarian. She graduated this year from the University of Alberta with a master’s degree in library science and information studies. Connors also earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Canada University College in 2007.

 Daniel Cress is a new recruiter and enrollment coordinator for Enrollment Services. He graduated from Union College with bachelor’s degrees in religious education and physical education in 2009. Daniel and his wife, Trina, have been living in Apopka, Fla., where Daniel has taught high school religion for the past two years.

 Damie Elder-Hiscock is the new administrative assistant for the Office of Academic Administration. She attended Union for two years before graduating from Walla Walla University in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in music. Damie previously served as the office manager for the Walla Walla University library. She is married to Jared Hiscock.

 Greg Hines, who holds degrees from Union in both business and nursing, has joined the Division of Nursing as a nursing instructor. Most recently Greg worked for St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center as an emergency department nurse. His background in both medicine and business lends a unique perspective which will benefit students and the nursing program. Greg and his wife, Dianne, live in the country with their three children Hayley, Beau, and Hunter.

 Ruth Ibuado, a 2011 graduate, has become the dean’s assistant in Rees Hall. She was born in Mexico, but raised in California. Ruth came to Union to visit a friend and decided to enroll. She prays that God will use her to make an impact on students’ lives the way He used so many faculty and staff to make an impact on her when she was still a student.

 Salli Jenks is the new administrative assistant to both the vice president for Financial Administration and the director of human resources. She will also serve as the new housing manager. Salli joins Union after working as the executive assistant to the vice president for heart services at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. She and her husband, Paul, have two daughters, Megan and Mattison, who attend Union and College View Academy respectively.

 Emily Lorenz is the new records associate. She graduated in May with a bachelor’s in mathematics education. Lorenz was a member of Union’s touring choir, the Unionaires, for two years as well as a mallet percussionist and flutist in Union’s band, Concert Winds. Her home is in Johnstown, Colo.

 Elysia Ockenga graduated from Union in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. She worked in the Medical, Oncology and Stroke unit at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center. She now returns to Union as a nursing instructor in the Division of Nursing. She and her husband, Nathan, have two children, Adin and Abbie, and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of their third child in October.

 Kenneth Osborn is the new visiting professor of chemistry for the Division of Science and Math. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in biophysical chemistry and now joins Union after teaching at Kansas community college for seven years. He is married to Kim.

 Lilianna Ramos is the new evening cook at Union Market. She comes from Peru, and she and her husband have three children.

 Michael Smith is the new information systems programmer. Smith graduated from Union in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. Previously, he taught at Minnetonka Christian Academy. He and his wife, Kerrie, have two children, Camden and Garrett.

 Tom Toews is joining the Division of Religion as an associate professor of religion. For the past three years, Toews has been a pastor for the Cheyenne and Laramie churches in Wyoming. This summer, he will graduate from Andrews University with a doctorate in historical theology. He and his wife, Lena, have two sons, Matthew and Andrew.

 John Wagner has returned to Union as interim president. He previously served as vice president, dean and president during the 1980s. He has also served as president at Southern Adventist University and was most recently serving part-time as the pastor for administration at the Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Md. John earned bachelor degrees in biology and religion from Atlantic College, a master’s degree in counseling and guidance from Andrews University and a doctor of education in curriculum and instruction from the University of Florida. His hope and commitment is to be used by God to support the Union College team, and he and his wife, Dr. Lylya Wagner, are looking forward to the opportunities.

 Denise Cunningham White is assuming the position of chair of the Division of Human Development. Previously, she worked as the associate superintendent of education for the Washington Conference. White earned a master’s of educational administration and leadership at Loma Linda University and a doctorate in the same from La Sierra University. She and her husband, Floyd, adopt rescue pets and currently have a 14-year-old cat, Charlie, and three cocker spaniels.

 Kim Widicker has joined the Division of Human Development as the new field director of social work. She earned a bachelor’s degree of social work from Union College in 1998, and then earned a master’s from the University of Nebraska Omaha in 2002. She has since worked as a clinical social worker and therapeutic mentor.
Transitions

Scott Cushman is the new director of digital communications in Marketing & Communications. He has been working as assistant director of public relations for the last five years and was promoted last May. Scott is in charge of the college website and manages Union’s social media presence.

Lynn Davis is the new administrative director of the leadership minor in addition to his current role of Union Scholars program assistant and associate professor of art. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in art education, he earned his master’s in art education from the Rhode Island School of Design. Davis serves as the secretary of the Lincoln Southeast chapter of Kiwanis, an international organization of volunteers. He is married to LuAnn Davis who is the vice president for Advancement. They have an 11-year-old daughter, Caitlynn.

Kevin Erickson, a 2006 graduate, is now the director of Admissions. He has worked at Union for the past five years, first as an enrollment counselor, then as the assistant director of enrollment. His wife, Jeaneen, works as a sixth grade language arts teacher at Goodrich Middle School. They celebrated their one-year anniversary on May 30.

Buell Fogg joined the Campus Ministries team as associate chaplain in August. He most recently served as assistant to the president under Dr. Smith. Buell and Chaplain Rich Carlson will coordinate the Campus Ministry under Dr. Smith. Buell and Chaplain Rich Carlson will coordinate the Campus Ministry under Dr. Smith.

Greg Steiner has transitioned from a health and human performance instructor to an institutional researcher in Union’s new Office of Institutional Research. Steiner is also the intramural sports director and head coach of Union’s women’s basketball team. He is married to Kimberly Steiner who is an associate professor of business for Union. They have a 3-year-old son, Carter.

Michael Steingas has joined Enrollment Services as strategic marketing coordinator. After graduating from Union with a degree in communication in 2010, he moved to Oregon for an internship with the Adventist Health Hospital. He hopes to create strategies and ideas that will attract and engage prospective students.

Taleah Vallés, a 2011 graduate has joined Enrollment Services. She began as an intern in January and is now an enrollment coordinator, working to recruit prospective students.

Angela Penrosa Wells has joined the Division of Nursing as the new office manager. She previously worked in the Campus Store and in the Division of Human Development. She and her husband, Nathan, have two daughters, Hannah and Jasmine.

Stephanie Wylie began as an interim advisor in February and has now transitioned to loan counselor for Student Financial Services. She has most recently worked as a strategic systems coordinator at Andrews University and is passionate about helping students achieve their goals.

Richard Young is now the director of recruiting. He has worked for Union for five years in his previous position as an enrollment advisor. Young graduated from Union with a bachelor’s degree in history education and is married to Natalie.

Summer Developments

Poetry by Ben Herzel, and photographs by Aaron Flores, Michael Adams, and Cassie Fitzpatrick, were all featured in the summer 2011 issue of Spectrum Magazine.

Thirteen physician assistant students and medical support team spent a week on the Amazon River providing medical and dental care in villages and underserved areas.

The Business Advisory Board supplemented the grounds department budget to provide for two new flowerbeds at the Prescott entrance.

Jeff Joiner presented at the ninth annual Nebraska Preparedness Symposium. The presentations were titled “Survival Skills in a Disaster” and featured a discussion on domestic and international deployments. The Symposium is offered annually and sponsored by The Center for Preparedness Education. He also attended the fourteenth Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference in Maryland, which is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA.

Mike Mennard released his sixth kids and family CD entitled “It’s a Pirate’s World.” The recording also features Greg Steiner, Kylie Lowe and Rachel Blake. All of Mike’s family CDs are available at the Campus Store.

Sabrina Riley attended the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians Conference at Pacific Union College, June 19-23. During the conference she gave a presentation featuring her research regarding a 34-star U.S. flag which reportedly hung from the podium when Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. This flag is part of the library’s Heritage Room collection.

On-Campus Updates

The business program is now accepting applications for students to participate in the mentorship program, which matches students with community leaders willing to share their business knowledge and experience.

The Second Annual Young Alumni Photography Exhibit is on display in the McClelland Art Gallery until September 18.

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, September 14:
7:00 p.m. Hour of Prayer in the Heritage Room at CVC.

Thursday, September 15:
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Annual Library Fair explores “Art through the Ages.” Come and bring your friends for food, games and prizes from places such as Noodles & Co., Papa Murphy’s, Hot Wok, and Sam & Louie’s.

Friday, September 16:
6:00 p.m. Clyde Peter’s Vespers, worship will be led by Pastor Hatfield.

Saturday, September 17:
7:00 p.m. V2
8:30 p.m. World Cup Soccer and Taste of Lincoln, free food from Lincoln international restaurants; sign up for soccer in Student Services.

Tuesday, September 20:
10:30 a.m. ASB Convocation is during Chapel.

Thursday, September 22:
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Union College Blood Drive in Woods Auditorium. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please email jeacker2@gmail.com

Join the conversation by sending information to news@ucollege.edu