Weary faces and anxious scurrying about signify the academic year is now well under way. The remnants of summer have been gradually shaken off as everyone knuckles down to work, but don’t miss out on all the on campus news and updates.

**Summer Developments**

- Over June 22-23 representatives from Accounting, Information Systems, Student Financial Services and Enrollment Services attended a PowerCAMPUS conference in Davenport, Iowa, to learn more about the software, which powers our campus database systems and discuss issues and solutions.

- Michelle Buller and Mike Huckabee attended the National PA Conference in Las Vegas on May 30–June 5. Ten PA students also attended the continuing medical education meetings. Union College co-hosted an alumni reception with the University of Nebraska Medical Center PA Program and the Nebraska Academy of PAs, and more than 30 PA alumni and guests from Union were in attendance.

- Debbie Forshee-Sweeney and Elizabeth Anderson attended presentations at the Association on Higher Education and Disability conference held July 11-16 in Seattle, Wash.

- Cliff Korf, Jodi Chewakin, Michelle Buller and Mike Huckabee attended a presentation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center on June 29 by Perri Morgan, PhD, PA-C, Director of PA Research at Duke University, titled “Establishing a framework for a PA research agenda.”

**Campus News**

- More than 75 students, staff and friends attended the Division of Emergency Management and Exercise Science’s welcome back picnic Sabbath afternoon, August 27. The barbecue was hosted by faculty and staff and held at the Joiner’s home.

- The Union Scholars program is thrilled to have Mike Mennard co-teach the gateway class: Western Culture. Together with Malcolm Russell, he will introduce literature that revolutionized the western world. Under the direction of Edward Allen, the scholars program is beginning the year with a freshman cohort of 15, bringing the total number of students to 45. The program’s community service emphasis has also shifted slightly for the freshmen recruits. Previously, scholars have been required to volunteer a set amount of hours to remain in the program, but this year, new students must commit to a project for the year and frequent it on a regular basis. The program’s leaders hope this move will strengthen the students’ commitment to service as well as make a reliable and stable contribution to the community.

- The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) renewed Union’s accreditation and gave the education program a top score. Union’s program has been accredited by NCATE for more than 50 years and was applauded for the preparation it gives students in both single and multi-grade classrooms. Because many states align teacher licensure requirements with the high standards set by NCATE, Union graduates find it easier to obtain a license in most states.

- Campus Ministries is experimenting with new ideas for meeting worship requirement expectations. This year, 16 students are involved in a pilot scheme that exchanges card scanning as a way to gauge worship attendance for meeting with a spiritual advisor. The mentor helps the student develop a personal, spiritual journey plan. This plan includes devotional time, fellowship through corporate worship and a response through service, outreach and evangelism. Leaders hope this scheme will help students utilize the worship opportunities available, and build a closer relationship with God.

**New Science and Mathematics Building Update**

- Workers have begun clearing land for a new parking lot at the northeast corner of Bancroft and 49th Street, next to Kern Courts. Creating the new parking area, which requires the demolition of one of Union’s rental houses on that lot next week, will be one of the first steps in the new science and mathematics building project. The 55,000 square foot building will be located on the north side of campus between Rees Hall and Larson Lifestyle Center in the parking area known as “The Pit.” School administrators hope to have the new parking lot ready by January so that work can begin on the construction site in the spring. A ground blessing ceremony to thank God for the project will be held Friday, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.

**Kudos**

- A total of 76 Union College students and faculty completed the 8.5-hour course “Basic Disaster Life Support” on August 25, 2011. The course is required for all senior nursing students, all IRR students in the Disaster Management and Terrorism course and all second-year graduate students in the physician assistant program. Charlotte Schober and Jeff Joiner were course instructors.

- Union College’s first academic convocation of the year named the first recipients of the Union College Board of Trustees Writing Awards. Serena Stevens, a 2011 graduate in psychology, was awarded from the category of upper-division research writing for her paper “The Effects of Brand Name on Quality Perception and Preference.” Cassie Johnson, a sophomore business administration major, received the award for her first-year research paper “Foreseeing the Silent Killer: Development of Eating Disorders,” junior communication and English major Addi Hudgins claimed the creative writing category for her story, “Peach Pie and Turtle Fudge Sundaes,” and sophomore psychology major Laura Selivanoff won the expository writing award with her essay, “What Does He Mean? An Examination of Paul’s Discussion of the Law in Romans.”

- Chris Blake was a featured speaker at the Adventist Forum Conference in Chicago, September 2-4. His talk was entitled “Genesis and Beyond: Celebrating Faith in a Polarized Age.” He will next present in Lincoln on October 2 at Peacemaking Workshop XXV: “Ethical Leadership in Uncertain Times,” and then in Seattle, Wash. October 8 on “The Polarization of Adventism.” He travels to Newbold College, U.K., November 6-12 to present on “Searching for a God to Love” at their Week of Spiritual Emphasis.
More than 750 Union College students, employees and friends participated in the 30th annual Project Impact. A record of 72 sites were served this year and since the project’s inception, an estimated 18,300 volunteers have impacted Lincoln. Project Impact is the longest running collegiate service day with the highest percentage of campus participants in the nation.

PA students Jacon Ayuen, Jon Kilstrom, Lauren Kelley, Kate Rabe and Barrett Waldrep were announced as the first five recipients of the Primary Care Services Scholarship in a ceremony held in the new classroom in the basement of the library. Union received a $792,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2010, which allows $22,000 to be awarded annually to five new PA students for the next four years. Union was one of only 28 PA programs in the country to receive the grant, and was singled out for its emphasis on helping the underserved. The PA program also awarded the first PA Humanitarian Award Scholarship to Megan Leveranz, a second-year PA student from South Dakota. The award was funded by two alumni and is given to a student who shows an exceptional desire to serve others.

Mike Mennard and Jim McClelland have authored a new children’s book of poetry that was unveiled at Indigo Bridge Books on Sept. 19. The Left-Sock Tree is a playground of words daring readers to see beyond what’s possible. The tree itself represents a place where all the lost things go—socks and dreams. The unveiling featured Mennard reading from selected poems while McClelland illustrated on the spot.

McClelland Art Exhibition
The McClelland Art Gallery is currently exhibiting work from Nebraskan artist Sharon Ohmberger. She was raised in rural northeast Nebraska and now resides with her husband in Firth, where she owns a studio. The handmade pottery is designed to express both beauty and utility; aspects that reflect on Sharon’s own creativity and practical rural background. She finds inspiration in everything from the cultivated, yet wild landscapes of the Great Plains to the flora and fauna in her own back garden. The exhibition runs from Sept. 18-Oct 2.

Words from the Wise
“The Roots of Violence: wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, politics without principles”--Mahatma Ghandi

On-Campus Updates
The first Preview Days of the year will be Sept. 22-25 and students from Sunnydale Academy, Dakota Adventist Academy, Blue Mountain Academy and DayStar Adventist Academy are all coming to check out the campus. If you know anyone who is interested in scheduling an individual or Preview Day weekend visit, contact Becky Dewey-Daniel at bdaniel@ucollege.edu, or go to www.ucollege.edu/experienceu.

The Campus Store’s “Family Fun Sale” runs from Sept. 26-Oct. 2. Don’t forget to stop by and check out the deals. Watch for posters.

Parents Weekend is Sept. 30-Oct. 2. At Union, parents are encouraged to be an active part of their student’s life and this is a great opportunity to visit the college. To register, parents should go to www.ucollege-ecommunity.org/parentsweekend.

Sunday, Oct. 2 marks the Safe Quarters Drive. This event raises money for the Friendship Home, a shelter for battered women and children, and is their main source of funding for the year. Those who would like to participate can get information in Campus Ministries or contact Sharon Russell in the Ortner center at 402.486.2443 and shrussel@ucollege.edu.

Mark Your Calendar
Wednesday, September 21:
7-9 p.m. Final auditions for Fiddler on the Roof, Union’s spring musical
Thursday, September 22:
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Union College Blood Drive in Woods Auditorium
6:30 p.m. Bible study discussing the sanctuary will meet in Rees Hall every Thursday. For more information contact Erome at 402.805.5202
Friday, September 23:
7:30 p.m. Vespers features a concert by artist Tony Wuerful
Saturday, September 24:
7 p.m. V2 hosted by Kayla and the Division of Nursing
8:30 p.m. ASB Amazing Pizza Machine in Omaha
Sunday, September 25:
10 a.m. CABL Triathlon at Branched

Parents Weekend Schedule of Events
Friday, September 30:
12 p.m. Alumni Golf Tournament at Woodland Hills
3-4:45 p.m. Welcome and Registration in the atrium
5 p.m. A Ground Blessing ceremony for the new science and mathematics complex will take the place of the traditional Get Acquainted Supper. The free event will be held in a large tent north of the Larson Lifestyle Center. The festive picnic will be followed by guided tours of the building site. All employees, students and their families are encouraged to come and celebrate. Union Market will be closed so everyone can attend.
7:30 p.m. Vespers will have a special missions emphasis and will be followed by MissionGlo.

Saturday, October 1:
8:45-9:30 a.m. Breakfast in Union Market
9:15 a.m. First church service at CVC
10:40 a.m. Sabbath School
12 p.m. Second church service at CVC-seniors march
1:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Lunch in Union Market
7 p.m. V2
8:30 p.m. Union College hosts Southeast Community College in women’s volleyball

Sunday, October 2:
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet the professors in their division offices
10-11:30 a.m. Brunch in Union Market
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