



the
clocktower

EXAMINING DIVERSITY

SAFE AND SOUND

EXAMINING DIVERSITY

BY NIGEL SUMERLIN AND EMY WOOD

“It’s up to us to welcome and encourage diversity on our campus.”

Safe and Sound is a semester-long look at physical and social issues affecting our campus. Read the other articles online at clocktower.ucollege.edu/safe-and-sound/introduction.

EXPLORING WHERE WE'VE BEEN

A look at Union College's racial diversity through the decades



NIGEL SUMERLIN

In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American in major league baseball to break the color barrier. Wataru Misaka made NBA history when he played for the New York Knicks in 1947 as the first Japanese man to play. Sonia Sotomayor was appointed the first female Supreme Court Justice in 2009, and in 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the first African American President of the United States.

As a country founded on principles of freedom and equality, The United State's track record has been bleak. Genocides, segregation and internment camps are just a few of the dark blots in our history. But in 2015 we are well on our way up the progressive slope towards becoming a nation who embraces diversity in every facet of American society, ranging

from the workplace to the House of Representatives.

Yet the journey to diversity has been tedious. More than 200 years since our country's birth we are far from being a country where all cultures and ethnicities feel safe to express themselves. The key to reaching the goal of diversity lies in education, where the minds of young Americans are more malleable and open to accepting ideas and experiences.

Working to create environments who accept students from diverse cultures and backgrounds not only creates safer schools to allow the enrichment that diversity brings, but also benefits students who are unfamiliar with other cultures.

"I don't think a college education

would be complete without some kind of [cognitive] dissonance going on, without some kind of searching and saying ‘okay, what are my values, versus what are mom and dad’s values?’” said Dr. Linda Becker, Vice President of Student Affairs at Union College.

In recent decades, Union College has made substantial progress towards becoming a campus that has achieved ethnic diversity among its students. In a US News index ranking universities and colleges across the country, Union has earned a place at the top of the list among colleges in the Midwest region.

Unfortunately, Union has not always had reason to boast. Kyle Berg, a senior Language Arts Education major at Union College, wrote the award winning essay last year “Racial Discrimination and Segregation at Union College from the 1930’s to the 1960’s,” revealing a shameful piece of history at Union. Administrators during this period had tainted mindsets from a dangerous era in which diversity was vilified rather than encouraged. Some of these appalling pieces of history in-

cluded forcing African American students to sit in the last three rows in the Rees Hall chapel, only allowing African American students to sit with Caucasian

.....

A project as important as this is never finished as long as there are people who are tempted to elevate some humans above others.

.....

students in the cafeteria after receiving an invitation, segregating dorms and discouraging interracial relationships as recently as the late 1960’s. Their policies of discrimination tore deep wounds into the college that have only recently begun to heal due to the diligent efforts of a new generation of progressive faculty, staff, and students.

Part of this process has included a letter of apology to Oscar, a member of our community whose father attended Union College during a period of segregation and hostility toward diversity. Dr. Mark Robison, who directed “Fifty Years Later,” was approached by this man after the

performance of this play, which focused on the successes and failures of the civil rights movement of the 1960's. Their conversation, along with Kyle Berg's expository essay, inspired Humanities Professor Chris Blake to write an apology letter to the alumnus in collaboration with Union College students J-Fiah Reeves, Stefani Leeper, Josh Ayala and Sean Hendrix on behalf of Union College for the discrimination he endured at Union College—a college that claimed to represent Jesus Christ.

Although Union College has made significant progress towards making our school safe for diversity, the work isn't over. A project as important as this is never finished as long as there are people who are tempted to elevate some humans above others. Healing has begun for the wounds of the past, but it isn't enough; we also need vigilance for the future. We, like the students who wrote the apology letter, must take the initiative to avoid complacency. It's up to us to welcome and encourage diversity on our campus.

Nigel is a freshman psychology and history major.



CELEBRATING WHERE WE'RE GOING

It takes everyone to create change

EMY WOOD

With today's technology, it's easier than ever to immerse yourself in other cultures. You can learn another language at the click of

a mouse or experience world cuisine any day of the week. In 24 hours, you could be on a plane to a sandy beach located at the

other end of the world.

Right now though, you're not on a sandy beach in Turkey, immersing yourself in another culture.

Instead, you're in college, where it's expected that you "broaden your horizons," "grow your world view" and "become a diverse and well-rounded student." The need for all of this? To prepare you to compete in the business world.

"Study after study shows that diversity in the business world unlocks innovation and drives market growth," claims Huffington Post in the article "Diversity is America's 21st Century Strength."

It should come as no surprise then to say we've reached the point of being a global community, where the need for diversity is stronger than ever.

"Nowhere is the growing acceptance and practice of multiracial relationships more common than on college campuses," shares Aja Frost in her USA Today article, "Today's College Students See No Problem With Multiracial

Relationships."

However, as Nigel Sumerlin mentions in his article, it wasn't always this way. Even for Union, the need to accept others and expand worldviews was foreign not long ago.

Now, as we move forward in the 21st century and work to put our sheltered past behind us, the expansion of diversity is directly ahead. Still, we run the risk of being far from being a place where all ethnicities feel safe. To keep Union at its lead of being diverse, we as the students have to remember our past and where we came from to continually work forward in expanding our ideas.

While it may sound simple, perhaps a three course model to taking action would be: recognize, educate, celebrate.

Administrators already recognize the need for a diverse campus. Recruiters gather students from across the world. Our financial department offers more scholarships than any other Adventist college and a multiracial commit-

tee is being established to examine areas where bias may exist on campus.

Now, we, as the students, need to be at the frontlines of harnessing the power in variety on campus by being involved. Participation is the key to any change, and in the area of diversity, it's the only relevant "solution."

"The one enemy of diversity is not recognizing it," said Ricky Amimo, a junior health sciences major from Kenya.

He points out a critical factor of potentially losing your culture while trying to blend with society. Of course, that's a normal part of wanting to "fit in," but its something of which we should be aware.

"When you think about diversity, you need to have something to compare it to," said Amimo. "You just can't have a monotonous of uniform community. You need variety."

But why such a need for variety? US News claims, "Learning from people whose backgrounds and

experiences differ from your own sharpens your self-knowledge and self-insight by allowing you to compare and contrast your life experiences with others whose life experiences differ sharply from your own. By being more self-aware, you are more capable of making informed decisions about your academic and professional future," claims US News.

Essentially, the goal is to expand our viewpoints beyond what we think we already know.

Luckily, we can have this variety by consciously doing more than just celebrating cultures, but making them a part of our lives. Attending events, expanding our social circles, traveling or eating foods we don't know the names of are just a few examples.

Luckily, we have the chance to do all of this right now, in college. The challenge is just to take advantage of these opportunities.

"We come into the world with our parents' biases. We tend to grow up with a set of values, perspectives, and tastes that we think everybody has until we start to

broaden our perspectives. There's value to looking from a different viewpoint," said Dr. Linda Becker, vice president of Student Services at Union College. "The broader our understanding of what different perspectives are, the better we are able to value who we are and respect the other person, which is a huge gift of education."

Don't think that this broadened perspective will come as a part of our education without any action on our part as the student. The Mr. and Mrs. World Pageant wouldn't be possible without participating countries. The reconciliation apology letter, as Nigel spoke of in his article, wouldn't have been possible without four students' initiative to take a stance.

The Adventist Colleges Abroad program wouldn't exist without the desire to experience other cultures. Even classes such as COMM 425 Intercultural Communication would lose its emphasis if students weren't willing to contribute towards the conversations.

The bottom line? Diversity takes action and the action needs to come from those who seek to experience the most from the diversity—us, the students; the minds who mold society.

We live in a society that, while diverse, will still pressure us into conforming. The moment we stop seeking opportunities to continually celebrate our differences is the moment our progress comes to a standstill.

Celebrate who you are, and celebrate who others are. Together. If you have an idea for celebrating your diversity on campus, share it. That's how we move forward. Whether it's through speaking at a V2 about your cultural background or giving a testimony, let your voice be heard.

Don't settle for OK and we'll continue being the diverse campus known as Union College. We may unite, but we are anything but uniform. After all, with 886 students and 29 countries represented, there's plenty of diversity on campus.

Emy is a sophomore studying communication.



SCHOLARSHIP MAKEOVER

Union introduces new four-year renewable scholarships

EMY WOOD

Union College just announced a new scholarship that will be implemented for new freshman students next year—and it will be 100 percent renewable all four years. That's quite the shift from our current scholarship plan, which dropped to 50 percent renewability after freshman year.

I sat down with Nadine Nelson, Union's vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial Services to discuss the new scholarships and what it means to current and future students.

This new scholarship sounds like it could really help Union appeal to new students. How does it work?

Nelson: Starting next school year, Union College will offer new 100

percent renewable scholarships to incoming freshman for four years. Each scholarship level is based on a student's high school GPA and ACT/SAT test scores. So whatever scholarship new students qualify for, they can now get that same amount for three more years.

We have also introduced two new scholarships for high academic achieving students with a high school GPA of 3.75 and above and ACT scores of 29 or above. This chart lays out the details.

Union is also offering a new scholarship for freshmen who plan to enroll in nursing. Students who indicate their interest in nursing, follow the pre-nursing curriculum and have a high school GPA of 3.0 and a 20 ACT

will be able to receive an additional \$2500 scholarship renewable for three more years.

Why is Union changing the scholarship program?

Nelson: We all want Union to continue to grow and offer many more students the great opportunities each of you have. Union College's long term strategic plan calls for us to increase enrollment over the next 10 years—30 students by 2019 and 110 students by 2025. In order to do that, Union needs to find new ways to attract students and be competitive with other Adventist and

regional colleges.

We hired a consulting company who specialized in reviewing institutional financial aid, and they told us that we were one of the only schools not renewing scholarships at 100 percent and that we could increase our new student enrollment by changing our scholarship program.

As we reviewed this information we discovered that Union is the last Seventh-day Adventist college in North America to begin offering four-year, 100 percent renewable scholarships. By changing our scholarship

Scholarship	High school requirements	Renewable award	Four-year total
Board of Trustees Scholar*	GPA 3.9 (GED 750) and ACT 32 (SAT 2120)	FULL TUITION!	\$85,000+
Presidential Scholar*	GPA 3.75 (GED 700) and ACT 29 (SAT 1940)	\$13,000	\$52,000
Academic Excellence Scholarship	GPA 3.5 (GED 650) and ACT 27 (SAT 1820)	\$11,000	\$44,000
Academic Honors Scholarship	GPA 3.25 (GED 600) and ACT 23 (SAT 1590)	\$9,000	\$36,000
Academic Merit Scholarship	GPA 3.0 (GED 550) OR ACT 20 (SAT 1410)	\$7,000	\$28,000
College Achievement Scholarship	Admission Criteria	\$6,500	\$26,000

*Board of Trustees and Presidential Scholarships are renewable at 100% if the student maintains a college GPA of 3.5 or greater.

Academic Scholarships are renewed at 100% for a total of four years (eight semesters). The student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0+ and be enrolled at Union College for at least 12 credit hours.

program, we now plan to offer the best value collegiate education in Adventist education.

Why is Union only offering the new scholarships to freshman? Why can't I get it, too?

Nelson: Union would love nothing more than to give every student these scholarships immediately. But it is going to cost an additional \$1 million when the new scholarships are fully implemented. To be able to fund the new scholarships we enroll more students. That's why we have to phase the scholarship program in slowly.

Next year the new plan will have minimal impact on the college budget because we are giving the freshman the same amount as before. The following year we will start to see increased costs because those freshman students will become sophomores. Instead of cutting the scholarship in half as we do right now, their scholarship amounts will remain the same.

Then how will Union pay for this?

Nelson: Implementing the new scholarships one class at a time will help ease the strain on the budget. The consultants project that this aggressive scholarship plan will increase our enrollment enough over the next four years to cover the extra cost. We truly hope and pray that is what happens so that it doesn't create an extra budget constraint to our campus.

Well, what's in it for us?

Nelson: First off, a strong and growing Union College benefits everyone. As we grow, we are able to add or strengthen services, programs, facilities and staffing to better serve all of our students. I know our students are really interested in a newer recreational facilities and we really hope that with an increase in enrollment can help infuse our institutional budget with the resources we need to continue to make improvements to our campus.

Secondly, every current student will still continue to receive all the scholarships they were guaranteed when they enrolled. Current students get their

scholarship renewed for nine semesters (4.5 years) instead of the eight semesters (4 years) that new students will get. New students are also no longer eligible for church matching funds.

Towards the end of our conversation, Nelson expressed her

gratitude towards the campus, saying, “I am blessed to be a part of the Union College family along with each of you. Thank you for helping make Union College a great place to study, work and thrive. Thank you for working together to encourage other students to join this amazing learning community.”

Emy is a sophomore studying communication.




APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8 8:00am Registration for Fall Begins 2:30-4:00pm LEAD Committee Development Junior Portfolio Conferenes	9 10:30-11:30am Faculty Senate	10 8:00pm Vespers Sunset: 8:01pm	11 ASB Talent Show Sunset 8:02pm
12 National Library Week	13 National Library Week 3:30-5:00pm Academic Council	14 National Library Week	15 National Library Week	16 Preview Days National Library Week 10:30-11:30am Academic Assembly	17 Preview Days National Library Week Div of Science and Mathematics to NE Academy 8:00pm Vespers: Power Pac Sunset: 8:08pm	18 Preview Days National Library Week CVC:Power Pac 8:00pm V2 Club Night Sunset 8:09pm



THUMBS UP | THUMBS DOWN

 To Dapper Dan's birthday
- Alex Hirst

 To guys not being able to wear earrings
- Troy Walbert

 To beaches
- Dmitri Mankarios

 To Aquafina water
- Kyle Smith

WE CAN'T HEAR YOU.

Yeah, we're going to need you to speak up.

Like us, hate us or anywhere in between, we'd love to hear why. Have a story you'd like to pitch? We'd love to craft it. Did you just make a big breakfast? Tell us why your mother's German waffle recipe is better than Paula Deen's.

Basically, write us.

Voice your opinions by emailing cltower@gmail.com and add to the conversation by connecting with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ClocktowerASB and online at <http://clocktower.ucollege.edu>.



Editor-in-Chief
Assistant Editor

Steven Foster
Natalie Bruzon

Copy Editor
Copy Editor
Copy Editor
Layout Editor
Online Content Editor
Social Media Editor
Photographer
Photographer
Sponsor

Vernée Norman
Elena Cornwell
Alexis Carnduff
Zack Posthumus
Brittany Houchins
Natalie Bruzon
Megan Bolton
Melisa Inkelaar
Michael Steingas

Culture Reporter
Humans of Union College
Lincoln Reporter
On Campus Reporter
Opinion Reporter
Religion Reporter
Senate Reporter
Special Interest Reporter
Sports Reporter
Technology Reporter
Wellness Reporter
World Reporter

Katie Morrison
Roderick Stickle
Debbie Pinto
Amy Wood
Jordan Zy
Abner Campos
Naomi Prasad
Nigel Sumerlin
Derek Baker
Christian Dye
Kyle Berg
Kevin Niederman

The Clocktower encourages reader feedback and strives to maintain accuracy. If you have comments, email us at cltower@gmail.com.

The Clocktower is published weekly during the school year by the Associated Student Body of Union College, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506.

The opinions expressed are the opinions of the writers and are not to be construed as the opinion of the editors, Associated Student Body, Union College or the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For more content, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ClocktowerASB or visit us at <http://clocktower.ucollege.edu>.



“Is that something you struggled with your freshmen year?”

“I don’t think it’s something you struggle with, I think it’s something that later you look back on and you’re like, ‘I could’ve utilized my time a little better.’ Like your freshmen year you’re like, ‘I’m having fun, things don’t matter.’ And then you get to your junior and senior years and you’re like, ‘oh crap!’ Like, it mattered. So yeah, like, twenties are really important, I’m just going to throw

that out there. Your twenties and college career are super super super important. Like, get stuff, get internships, put yourself out there to get jobs. Don’t be in this little bubble where you’re like, ‘I’ll be fine.’ And then your senior year is where you’re trying to get all these internships and jobs and whatever. It doesn’t work that way. You got to start doing that earlier, and I wish I’d known that my freshmen year. That’s where I messed up.”

-Inonge Kasaji, Senior, Social Work

.....

*Humans of Union College is
compiled by Roderick Stickle*

Hey, have you every seen our staff bio page? It's pretty neat.
Read The Clocktower online at <http://clocktower.ucollege.edu>.



"Should You Jail Break Your Phone?"
by Christian Dye

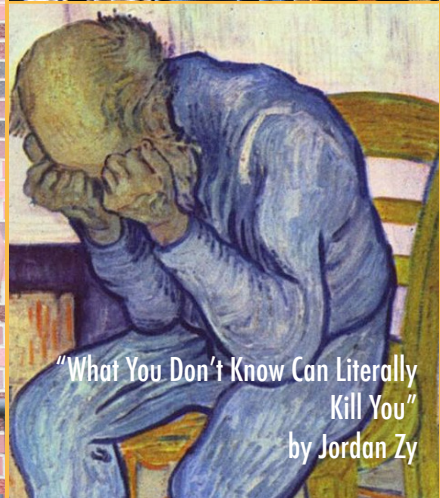
We've got even more for you
online—with an update on
ISIS and spring fashion.
Sorry, there's nothing about
ISIS spring fashion, though.



"IRK with a side of parkour"
by Stefani Leeper



"Dating On-The-Line"
by Kyle Berg



"What You Don't Know Can Literally
Kill You"
by Jordan Zy