

# MOUNT UNION

MOUNT UNION MAGAZINE | [MOUNTUNION.EDU/MAGAZINE](http://MOUNTUNION.EDU/MAGAZINE) | #MOUNTUNION

FALL/WINTER  
2023





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## Get Social with #MountUnion



#BeExceptional

*The mission of the University of Mount Union is to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.*

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**Mount Union Magazine** is published in the winter and summer by the University of Mount Union Office of Communication for its alumni and friends. University of Mount Union, 1972 Clark Ave., Alliance, OH 44601

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In life, the notion that nothing is done alone resonates as a universal truth. Collaboration, cooperation, and shared insights serve as catalysts for innovation and change, emphasizing the profound reality that no achievement occurs in isolation.

While this concept shines a light on the power of teamwork among individuals, I believe it is also very much applicable to higher education institutions. Although, historically, many colleges and universities, especially small, private institutions, have chosen to go it alone when facing times of challenge, modern times demand a shift in strategy. Declining demographics, a proliferation of higher education options, and a challenging economic environment have rendered many institutions vulnerable. Thus, this partnership evolution, centered around the idea of collaboration, may be the catalyst for not only surviving but thriving in the higher education arena.

Mount Union has long enjoyed a mutually beneficial town-gown relationship with the City of Alliance. Both entities have historically understood that when the University succeeds, so does the city, and vice versa. Over the years, we have partnered with Alliance on projects involving sustainability, entrepreneurship, economic development, and K-12 education preparation. Our faculty and staff are heavily involved in the community as well, and they set an outstanding example that is evidenced by the 80% of students who follow suit and participate annually in service initiatives.

This year, the University partnered with the Greater Alliance Foundation and a network of community agencies to transform the former Alliance Neighborhood Center, located in one of the city's most impoverished areas, into a thriving community center named the Alliance Commons. A variety of services are now within a stone's throw of those who need these offerings the most. A recent addition to the Alliance Commons – a non-profit, fresh-food market – has made grocery shopping accessible in a neighborhood that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had previously defined as a “food desert.”

Our work within Alliance has been rich and meaningful over the years, but Mount Union has never been an institution that rests on its laurels. If we are to face the turbulent higher education climate head-on, we must focus on providing students with the experiences, resources, and sense of belonging that they demand and need. And we can't do it alone.

We need to remain laser-focused on doing all we can to meet student needs efficiently and effectively, and our plans to build strategic collaborations have firmly planted us on a positive trajectory. I truly believe that, with strong partners by our side, the opportunities are limitless.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. King '89  
President

## CURRENT AND FUTURE PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS

### #1

We are meeting with key organizations and individuals in the city to re-imagine Alliance and enhance entertainment options.

### #2

We are working internally and with area developers on improving the offerings and attractiveness of the perimeter of the campus.

### #3

We are building strategic business partnerships that elevate outcomes for our students and graduates, meeting relevant employer needs via in-demand academic preparation and providing practical, hands-on experiences for students through project-based and internship opportunities.

### #4

We are directly engaging with prospective students and families through third-party partnerships, including the world-renowned Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps, Akron North High School, and College Credit Plus, among others.

### #5

We are teaming up with our friends and colleagues at other colleges and universities to offer academic pathways to enhance affordability and reduce the time it takes to earn a degree.



## MOUNT NETS NEARLY \$900,000 GRANT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORTING OHIO'S STEMM TALENT

The University was awarded a grant totaling \$881,496 via the 2024 fiscal year funding round of the Choose Ohio First (COF) program, which aims to strengthen Ohio's workforce in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM).

The COF program is designed to increase competitiveness in STEMM programs and to increase the number of STEMM educators. The Ohio Department of Higher Education supports Ohio's colleges and universities by providing funding to innovative academic programs. Participating colleges and universities then provide scholarships to students who wish to pursue STEMM fields or who strive to become STEMM educators.

Mount Union, as a participating university and a grant award recipient, aims to increase scholarships and access for financially disadvantaged students from Ohio to advanced practice health careers. A special focus will be placed on the University's graduate programs in physician assistant studies, physical therapy, and the new Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Family Nurse Practitioner, which recently received final approval from the Higher Learning Commission. As part of the program, these new COF scholars will focus some of their coursework on studying Ohio-specific critical healthcare

concerns, disseminating their knowledge to peers across all disciplines.

"The COF scholarship funding will also accelerate our efforts to mitigate the significant staffing shortages of physicians in regional ERs by continuing to produce physician assistants who serve in that setting, and by attracting students to our new, first-in-Ohio MSN ER nurse practitioner program in the fall of 2024," said Dr. Sandra Madar, interim co-vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences (see related story on p. 5).

Mount Union has already received more than \$700,000 from previous COF funding rounds that have gone toward increasing access for underrepresented students from Northeast Ohio wishing to pursue majors and careers in STEMM. This includes bolstering existing partnerships with Akron North High School and Alliance High School and supporting neighboring school districts in Stark and Summit counties.

Included as part of these efforts is a focus on providing "gap funding" to students from these local high schools wishing to study STEMM related disciplines at the University. This would help make a Mount Union education possible for students of all backgrounds.

## MOUNT UNION LAUNCHES NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE AFFORDABILITY FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

In an effort to make the college experience more affordable, Mount Union recently announced its Campus Visit Award, which is available to all new students beginning in the 2024 Fall Semester.

The award is given to any student who schedules and attends a campus visit or admission event and subsequently enrolls at Mount Union. Those eligible students will receive \$1,000 each year for a total of \$4,000 over a four-year period, aiding in providing an accessible education to students of all backgrounds.

In an effort to further support students who need financial assistance, the University is also offering a grant totaling \$2,000 to every student who is admitted to Mount Union and completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

First-year and transfer undergraduate students who are admitted to Mount Union in the fall of 2024 or later will receive the \$500 FAFSA Filer Grant upon completion of the FAFSA. The grant is renewable for up to four years, or \$2,000 in total, if the FAFSA is completed each year.



## MOUNT UNION ACKNOWLEDGED BY NUMEROUS REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RANKINGS BODIES

Mount Union is proud to be named one of the Best Colleges in America by “Money” for 2023. Mount Union’s distinguished four-star rating is in part due to nearly 99% of its students receiving some form of financial aid and its awarding of more than \$36 million in grants and scholarships each year. The University is one of only 15 higher education institutions in Ohio to earn a four-star rating or higher.

For the third time, the University has been named to the 2023 Transfer Honor Roll by the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society for its dynamic pathways to support transfer students. The Transfer Honor Roll is determined by 40 key metrics related to the support and success of transfer students, including college cost and financial aid, campus life for transfers, admission practices, and bachelor’s degree completion. Mount Union was one of only eight institutions in Ohio and 208 across the nation to earn a place on the Transfer Honor Roll.

Mount Union also has been named the top small employer in Ohio as part of Forbes’ inaugural listing of America’s Best Small Employers. The University was ranked number 39 in the nation out of an initial pool of 10,000 businesses, with the 300 highest-scoring businesses making the final rankings. Forbes defines these companies as employing between 200 and 1,000 individuals.

Continuing the tradition of excellence, the University has once again been cited by U.S. News and World Report’s Best Colleges Rankings for the 33rd consecutive year. Mount Union climbed an impressive 12 spots in the Top Performers in Social Mobility ranking from U.S. News. The ranking measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants, with Mount Union ranking 55th among all regional universities in the Midwest.

Continuing its dedication toward sustainable practices, Mount Union was once again named to The Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges for 2024. Mount Union is one of 522 institutions across the world to receive this recognition.

The University’s online Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree program has been named the number one online education program in Ohio and is tied for the best online education program among private institutions in the United States by U.S. News and World Report for 2024.

## MOUNT UNION, LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CREATE IN-DEMAND ASSOCIATE TO BACHELOR'S DEGREE PATHWAY

Mount Union and Lorain County Community College (LCCC) have entered into an articulation agreement for an associate to bachelor's degree pathway.

Under this new agreement, any LCCC student who completes an LCCC associate degree (Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Arts, or Associate of Science) is guaranteed admission to Mount Union to pursue a bachelor's degree, provided they meet all Mount Union admission requirements. There are additional admission requirement criteria for the nursing, music, and theatre degree programs.

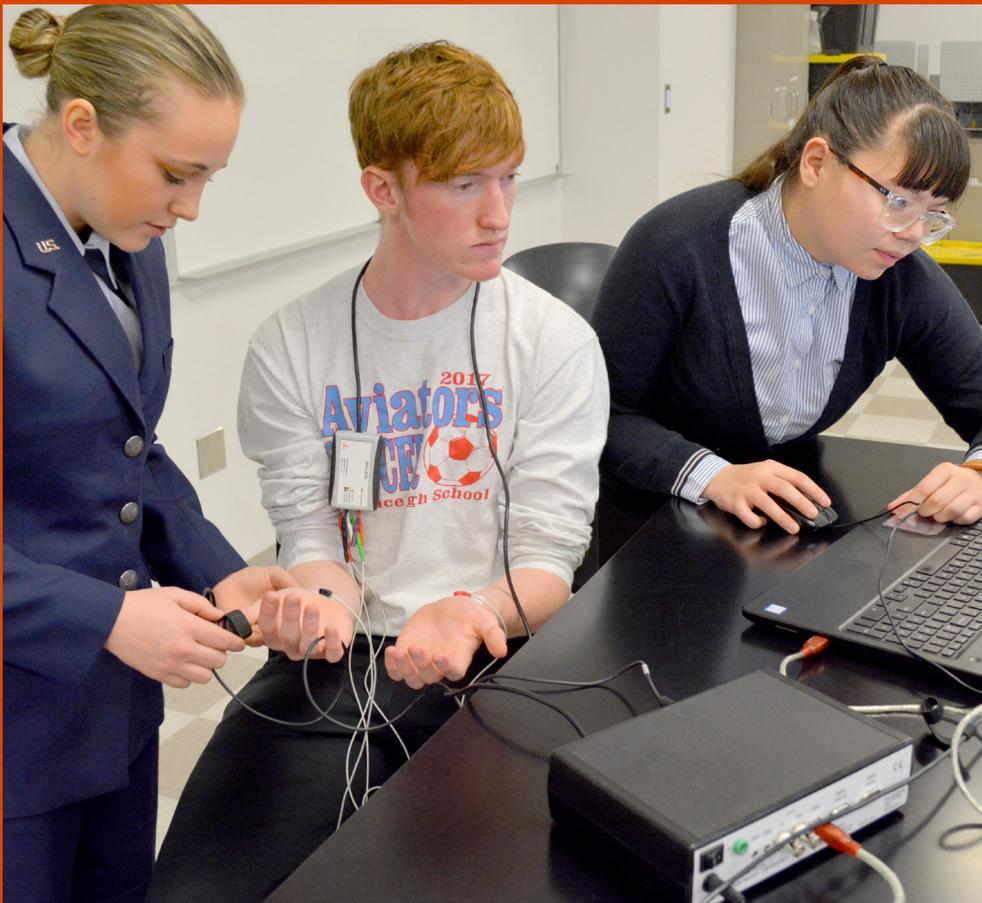
"It is important to recognize those who graduate with an associate degree and celebrate their remarkable academic accomplishments," said Dr. Bryan Boatright, interim co-vice president for academic affairs and University registrar. "By creating this associate to bachelor's degree pathway, we not only recognize their hard work but also want to be a part of their continued educational experience here at the University of Mount Union."

## MOUNT UNION TO ADD NEW ATHLETIC PROGRAM IN WOMEN'S WRESTLING

The University's Board of Trustees has approved the addition of women's wrestling to the intercollegiate athletic program. The team will start competition in the fall of 2024.

Women's wrestling is one of the fastest-growing sports at the high school and collegiate levels and is expanding rapidly among Division III, Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC), and other Ohio colleges and universities. Mount Union's program will be developed under the leadership of Ryan Riggs, head men's wrestling coach, and Clay Wenger, who has been named the institution's first head women's wrestling coach.

At the collegiate level, women's wrestling is currently offered at 169 institutions competing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the National Junior College Athletic Association, per data provided by the Women's Collegiate Wrestling Coalition website. It became an NCAA emerging sport in 2020-2021, and Mount Union's team will become the 60th Division III program and the fourth in the OAC.



## BIOMEDICAL, COMPUTER ENGINEERING EARN ACCREDITATION

The University of Mount Union is pleased to announce that its programs in biomedical engineering and computer engineering have earned accreditation from the Engineering Accreditation Commission of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). All four majors in Mount Union's School of Engineering are now accredited by ABET, with its programs in civil engineering and mechanical engineering earning initial accreditation in 2015. Opportunities in experiential learning, team competition, internships, and research are provided to students, which have led to 100% job placement and acceptance in top-ranked engineering graduate programs.



## MOUNT UNION MEETING INDUSTRY DEMAND WITH NEW MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Building upon the success of its highly ranked Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, the University has announced the addition of a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree to its academic offerings. The program has been approved by the institution's Board of Trustees and recently received final approval from the Higher Learning Commission.

The MSN degree offers a concentration in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), a 46-credit-hour program that can be completed in as few as two years. This ensures that the opportunities for nurses who are seeking to advance their careers are accelerated and bridges the current primary care practice gap.

With the Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting that more than 30,000 new advance practice registered nurses will be needed each year through 2031, Mount Union's MSN program will help meet the surging workforce demand.

Mount Union is one of only 17 programs across the country to pair an Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) certification with its MSN degree program. This unique complement enhances nurses' skill sets and opens the door for more career opportunities. Those who have previously earned an FNP can also earn this certification as a standalone offering.

"The addition of the ENP credential will allow our advanced practice nurses to meet the growing demand for practitioners in emergency room settings, as physician shortages in this area increase," said Dr. Sandra Madar, interim co-vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.

Mount Union has worked hard to fill the region's nursing shortage. The nursing program also offers a Second-Degree Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and a three-year accelerated nursing program for first-time college students.



## DR. WILLIAM CUNION NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. William Cunion has been named vice president for academic affairs at the University. Cunion, who served as a faculty member and administrator at Mount Union for more than a decade, will return to campus after serving in administrative roles of increasing responsibility at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) since 2014.

Cunion currently serves as the academic dean of Tri-C – East, a role he began in 2019. In this position, he serves as the primary academic leader on the campus and has been highly involved with various external partnerships. He is also responsible for the administration of academic courses at the Eastern Campus. His success as the academic dean at Tri-C led to his appointment as interim president of the Eastern Campus from August through December of 2021. Prior to serving as academic dean and interim president of Tri-C – East, Cunion was the campus' associate dean of liberal arts (2014-2019).

Cunion began his higher education administrative career at Mount Union, serving as the associate academic dean from 2010 to 2014. During this time, he provided oversight for the entire University curriculum, supervised numerous administrators and program directors, and provided leadership and coordination for the overhaul of the college curriculum. He also taught a range of courses in American government and basic statistics for social science, first as an assistant professor of political science (2003-2009) and then as an associate professor of political science (2009-2014). He served as chair of the Department of Political Science as well as its internship director and was the recipient of Mount Union's prestigious Great Teacher Award in 2006.

A native of Massillon, Ohio, Cunion earned a B.A. degree from Xavier University, an M.A. degree from Ohio University, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, all in political science.

# A MODERN CAMPUS

For present-day college students and those who will follow, feeling comfortable on a college campus means having the modern conveniences of home. As digital natives, today's college-bound students have grown up in an era of instant gratification and technology on demand, yet they crave opportunities for and environments that foster social connection. Thus, the investment in campus amenities and facilities that serve these emerging student needs is paramount for colleges and universities. Here's how Mount Union is heeding the call.



## CAMPUS GROUNDS

Over the summer months, the Campus Grounds area of the Hoover-Price Campus Center received a contemporary facelift. This facility, which has been used over the years for both student-centered and campus-wide events, has specifically been designated for student use moving forward.

The renovation, which features new flooring, additional gaming tables, and increased booth seating, has been a hit on campus with the student body. A new sound system, projector, and soft seating spaces allow them to spend quality time with their friends and classmates, and the upgrades provide prime real estate for students.

“Since my first year, I wished that Mount Union had a communal space for students to hang out outside of the residence halls, study areas, or cafés, so I was thrilled to see the newly improved Campus Grounds at the beginning of the semester,” said Ashton Knappenberger ’25, a public relations, English, and Spanish triple major from Massillon, Ohio. “The comfortable seating and games make the area more enjoyable to relax in.”



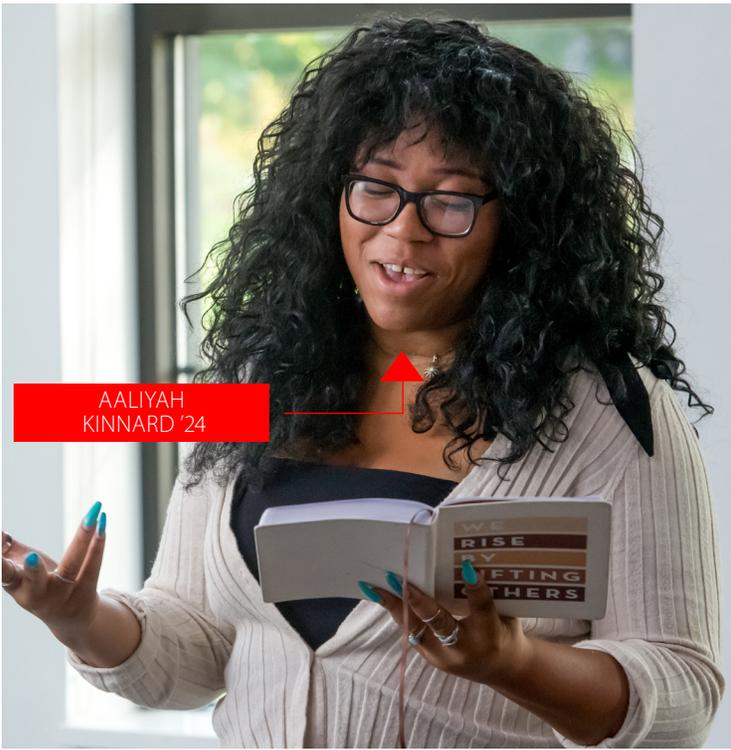
ALEJANDRO  
ELIAS ESPINOZA '25

## OUTDOOR PATIO

The patio of the Campus Grounds was also enhanced thanks to a gift from the Class of 2023. As a result of the generosity of this most recent graduating class, students can enjoy a new fire pit with the infrastructure for two additional fire pits that can be added down the road. This upgrade also includes new landscaping and furniture and the installation of a garage door that provides easy access to and from this outdoor communal space and the renovated interior of the Campus Grounds.

During the fall, students flocked to this new space, hanging out with friends, catching a game on the new outdoor TV, or enjoying s'mores by the fire, thanks to the addition of s'mores kits to the B & B Café offerings.

“In the warmth of these fires, we not only discover the essence of community but also illuminate the path to self-discovery, creating enduring bonds that linger long after the embers fade,” said Alejandro Elias Espinoza '25, a civil engineering and music double major from Peru.



AALIYAH  
KINNARD '24

## INCLUSION CENTER

The University officially dedicated its new Wayne Manzilla Inclusion Center this fall as part of a ceremony recognizing the donors and friends who made the space possible. A gift from Nancy Hill '79 and Mark Schaefer '79 helped with the refresh of the area in the Hoover-Price Campus Center, including a student work office, meeting space, conference room, and lounge. The lounge was also dedicated as The Costanzo Family Collaboration Lounge, thanks in part to a gift from a friend of Jim Costanzo '84 to recognize his service to the University.

“The newly installed Wayne Manzilla Inclusion Center has quickly become a safe space for many students and a place to establish Mount Union’s commitment to diversity initiatives,” said Aaliyah Kinnard '24, a psychology major from North Canton, Ohio. “Many, if not all, of the diversity organizations here are given an opportunity to connect with the campus community and offer a perspective that is important to our mission as a university. As one of the students in these diverse spaces, I greatly appreciate what the new diversity center represents!”

# MODERN CONVENIENCE

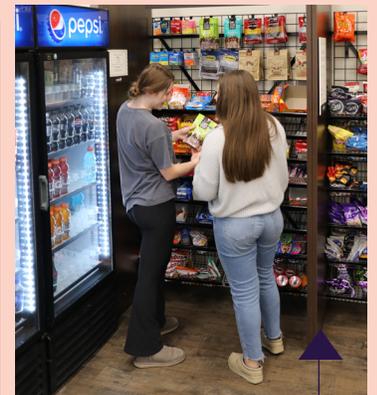


## RAIDERSRIDE BIKESHARE

Students now have the opportunity to check out a bicycle to explore campus and the Alliance area as part of the “RaidersRide” program.

## HAMMOCK GARDEN

For students who like to study, do homework, or just hang out by the lakes, a new hammock garden has been added that can accommodate up to four hammocks.



## MARKET-C STORE

Students enjoy the new “Market-C” 24-hour convenience store that is unstaffed and open for those pulling late-night study sessions in the Kolenbrander-Harter Information Center.



LAURA KOHMANN '26

## STUDENT SUCCESS

The Center for Student Success has moved to the Kolenbrand-Harter Information Center in a space that features six new offices and six testing rooms. This new location places key student services in one of the central hubs of campus – the library – and merges career development, academic support, and accessibility services with the Digital, Written, and Oral Communication Center, Math Learning Center, and Integrative Core. In this space, students can improve their study habits, identify internship opportunities, or receive assistance with a writing project – all of which is critical to their academic success.

“The Center for Student Success has done a lot for me as a transfer student,” said Laura Kohmann '26, a marketing major from Alliance, Ohio. “Going to a university can be scary as a new student but was even scarier for me coming in as an upperclassman and not knowing anyone or being familiar with resources on campus. Knowing that I can always go to the Center for Student Success, where someone is always willing to talk with and check up on me, has been a major factor on how I adjusted to Mount being my home.”



### GRILLING AREAS

Students living in the University’s on-campus townhouses can utilize the gas grills for sunny evening BBQs with housemates.

### ART PLAZA

Students find inspiration in the scenic views of the Art Plaza, located by the lakes – the perfect place to set up an easel and canvas.



### BASKETBALL COURTS

Two outdoor basketball courts located on campus provide the perfect place for students to burn off steam and enjoy a game with friends.



### AMPHITHEATRE

The Campus Lakes Amphitheatre, a gift from the Class of 1972, provides a venue for performances and outdoor classes by the lakes.



### SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS

In the Quad, a sand volleyball court is the perfect place for students to have a friendly match with classmates on a warm summer day.

# S U C C E S S

*Pictured left: Mount Union's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program graduates have experienced outstanding success after graduation, with 100% of the program's Class of 2022 finding professional employment within six months.*

# NEXT LEVEL

# CESS

In the scope of Mount Union's incredible 177-year history, 13 years might not seem significant. In the years since 2010, notable growth has occurred. For context, it was in that year that the institution's Advancing Excellence strategic plan was launched within months of the very first iPad. Just as Apple had a vision for advancement in its tablets, Mount Union sought important progress with its burgeoning graduate programming.

At the time of Advancing Excellence's launch, the plan aimed for 10% of Mount Union's student population to be graduate students. It certainly seemed lofty with the University's only graduate program, a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (PA), in its first year. Since that time, new programs – a Master of Education (M.Ed.), Doctor of Physical Therapy (PT), and Master of Business Administration (MBA) – have found increased success, leading to 11.8% of the student body being graduate students as of the fall of 2023.



## A SUCCESSFUL FOUNDATION

The addition of the PA, PT, M.Ed., and MBA programs all made sense in that each met two important criteria – demand for skilled professionals in each field and Mount Union’s established history of success in related undergraduate disciplines.

Recent accolades make the success of these programs evident. The PA program has been ranked as a top program every year since 2017 by U.S. News and World Report, and that same publication cited the M.Ed. program as the top online M.Ed. program in Ohio and tied among private institutions in the nation in 2024. Additionally, 100% of the PT program’s Class of 2022 graduated on time and found professional employment within six months, and two new MBA concentrations – strategic healthcare administration and corporate communication and public relations – have been approved by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

“What sets Mount Union apart from other schools is the dedicated staff and faculty members who make sure every student will be as successful as possible. I’m convinced they have the best faculty a school could possibly have.”

**TINA EHRICH M’19**  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  
CRYSTAL CLINIC ORTHOPEDIC CENTER



This success is garnering attention and bringing more adult learners and working professionals to Mount Union to continue their educations. Since 2015, the University’s graduate enrollment has increased an impressive 149%. With new early assurance pathways and articulation agreements with partner institutions, that number is primed to continue its ascent.

“What sets Mount Union apart from other schools is the dedicated staff and faculty members who make sure every student will be as successful as possible,” said Tina Ehrich M’19, physician assistant at the Crystal Clinic Orthopedic Center. “I’m convinced they have the best faculty a school could possibly have.”

These existing programs continue to make their mark and produce exceptional alumni, providing a solid foundation from which to grow. As such, Mount Union is preparing for new graduate programs in nursing and occupational therapy.





## NEW HORIZONS

Since its inception in 2013, Mount Union’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree has been a resounding success. As more nurses are needed in short-staffed hospitals and practices, the nursing program has grown into the number one program at the University in terms of enrollment with 152 declared majors as of fall 2023. With its graduates averaging a 98% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN – 14 points higher than the Ohio average – the program’s prowess has launched alternative ways for Mount Union’s future nurses to enter the field.

As more adults are seeking career changes coming out of the pandemic, Mount Union is meeting them where they are on their journeys. The addition of its accelerated second-degree BSN and its fast-track, 36-month traditional BSN options have generated new ways for nontraditional students to quickly begin their allied health careers. With three successful pathways for students to become impactful nurses, developing a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree made complete sense.

Yet, Mount Union’s MSN, like its undergraduate programming, stands out from the pack. Its MSN in Family Nurse Practitioner degree bridges the primary care practice gap and allows professionals to take their careers a step further with a certification in Emergency Nurse Practitioner. Mount Union is one of only 17 institutions across the country that will be able to boast this offering to its students, and, now that the appropriate approvals have been received from the HLC, the program will enroll its first cohort in the fall of 2024.

“This program represents our commitment to healthcare education and the advancement of opportunities in nursing practice,” said Dr. Betty Allen, associate professor and director of the Department of Nursing. “We look forward to empowering nurses with the knowledge and skills they need to make a positive impact to serve patients and communities.”

Building off these allied health successes, a graduate program in occupational therapy (OT) is in the works for 2025, with Dr. Joseph Pellerito, Jr., recently hired to lead the program. Pellerito comes to Mount Union from St. Bonaventure University in New York after successfully launching its OT program in 2019.

“Occupational therapy is an outstanding health profession for both traditional students and adult learners interested in returning for a degree,” said Dr. Sandy Madar, co-interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences. “Dr. Pellerito is committed to helping us create a program that is accessible to both.”

Education is changing every day – programming, delivery method, and the type of student ready to learn. Mount Union’s history of nimbleness in educational adaptation is noteworthy, and its graduate programs are a shining example of success. As the notion of a traditional college student leans further away from an ambitious 18-year-old, Mount Union remains prepared to offer the best experience for anyone determined to make an impact.

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*Pictured opposite page, top left: The Master of Education program offers concentrations in athletic coaching, instructional design and technology, educational leadership, and Ohio principal licensure.*

*Pictured opposite page, center right: The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies has been ranked as a top program by U.S. News and World Report.*

*Pictured opposite page, bottom left: The Master of Business Administration program offers concentrations in business analytics, leadership and innovation, strategic healthcare administration, and corporate communication and public relations, the latter two of which are new additions recently approved by the HLC.*

*Pictured above: Now that the appropriate HLC approvals have been received, Mount Union plans to launch a Master of Science in Nursing program this fall.*



# all in

Kabi Ramadhani '25 commits fully to the interests that inspire him.

For Kabiona “Kabi” Ramadhani '25, passion for the things he loves runs deep. Whether it’s filmmaking, theatre, or soccer, the Mount Union junior puts 110% into all he does, and his motivation comes directly from within.

“I think it is self-motivation,” says Kabi. “I don’t know where else it possibly could come from. I try to look back to where I began, and I’ve just always wanted to do something cool. So, I just do it.”

Kabi, a theatre and French double major, came to Mount Union primarily for theatre and to continue playing soccer after high school.

“I’ll be honest. I didn’t really look at many colleges,” said Kabi. “I saw Mount Union, and it was the members of the theatre program and soccer coaches who convinced me to come. I’m happy I did because it feels like a second home. I’ve made a billion friends here, and my teammates feel like brothers.”

## behind the camera

Kabi’s passion to create and produce short films started at a young age. He was born in a refugee camp in Tanzania and moved to Cleveland just before his ninth birthday. While

living in Tanzania, Kabi didn’t have access to a television in his home. When he first moved to Cleveland, his family got a TV, and he would binge-watch television all hours of the day. In 2014, he first saw “The Flash” and was inspired.

“I watched the first episode,” Kabi said. “And then I just had to recreate that super speed. Ever since then, I have been creating more things over and over. I couldn’t stop recording stuff. I got started literally on my phone. That’s where I shot most of my videos. It’s only now, when I’m in media classes, that I’m starting to use professional equipment. Props to Dr. [Adelina] Cooper, because I guess she thinks I’m good at what I do. She’s taught me a lot about equipment.”

Pairing the experience and guidance Kabi has received at Mount Union with his vision, his short film “Happily Ever After” earned him Best Actor and Best Director nominations at the 2023 Akron Independent Horror Short Film Festival. While he is used to working alone on most of his personal projects, Kabi tries to get his family and siblings involved, though he joked that he does not often leave them much of a choice.

“My family and siblings almost never want to get involved, but I always convince them,” Kabi said, smiling. “I’m always



like ‘I’ll get you pizza after we’re done,’ and that usually works. Usually, I’m alone but sometimes I need certain shots for certain moments, and I’ll ask them to help.”

## in the spotlight

Though he has gained significant technical prowess directing his own projects, Kabi’s love for theatre began before he moved to the United States.

“My mom would take me to the theatre that was local,” explained Kabi. “Because we did not have a television, that is how we would find entertainment – in live shows or plays.”

Kabi credits his mother for sparking his interest in theatre at an early age. By taking him to the theatre, he found a love for the music, the acting, and the production of it all. His direct involvement in theatre started during his junior year of high school at Lincoln West High School in Cleveland as Scrooge in “A Christmas Carol” and has grown from there. Last academic year, he made his Mount Union stage debut in “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Kevin Kern, professor of theatre, sees the hard work that Kabi puts into his craft.

“In his first year with us, we recognized Kabi’s strong work ethic,” Kern said. “His desire to perfect the craft of storytelling and his performance in our production of ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’ was sensational and a crowd favorite.”

Both theatre and filmmaking share a lot of processes and artistic expression, but Kabi has learned a lot about the differences between acting on the stage and in a short film.

“In film, you have to do things like you do in theatre, but a lot smaller,” Kabi said. “In theatre, you have to overexaggerate a lot because there’s a big audience somewhat far away, so they’ve got to see and hear what you’re saying and doing. In film, the camera is closer to you, and your acting can be a little more realistic and smaller in a sense.”

## on the field

While Kabi isn’t certain what the future holds for him after he graduates, one thing he hopes is that soccer, in some form, is part of it.

“I don’t know where I’ll be, but I know I’m only going to be young for so long...only going to be able to run around for so long,” said Kabi. “So, I want to play soccer and then focus on filmmaking and acting. Maybe I’ll act in films.”

Kabi admits that balancing soccer and theatre with filmmaking and classes can be difficult, but he’s learning how to manage his time and still do the things he loves.

“It’s hard. It really is. Sometimes, I’ll go six months without making a short film because I’m doing school things,” says Kabi. “This year, I’ve done a better job at it. Any time I have a break, I’ll make a short film or come up with one. I’ve learned to write down a bunch of ideas when I have them so that when I do have time, I can quickly look at those ideas. Also, I’ve grown more patient. I’ve learned patience because some things you can do in a couple of days, but other projects can take weeks or longer.”

Above all, Kabi credits his Mount Union soccer teammates for being his best support system on campus as they know all the different things he is doing.

“My teammates support me in everything I do,” said Kabi. “Whenever I tell them I am doing something, they show up and support me. When I was doing ‘Joseph,’ the whole team basically showed up to watch me. They even help with filmmaking stuff too.”

Though he’s lived across the world, Kabi found another home in Alliance on Mount Union’s campus. Getting the opportunity to explore his passions and being recognized for the success of his work is the cherry on top of finding a community that supports his relentless pursuit of making his entertainment and athletic dreams a reality.

# CLASS NOTES

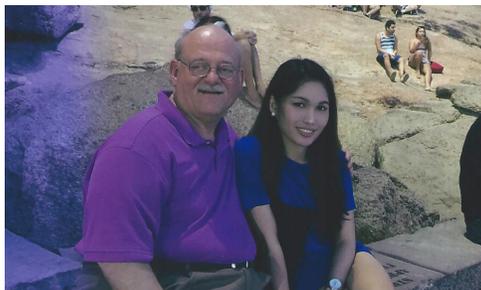
Class Notes to be included in the Spring/Summer 2024 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before May 31, 2024.

Material for Class Notes is obtained online or through news passed along from alumni to the offices of Alumni Engagement, Advancement, and the Mount Union Fund. Notices sent by the Post Office are not printed in Class Notes. You may also submit your class note via email at [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) or the form found at [mountunion.edu/alumni](http://mountunion.edu/alumni).

## 1970s

Sue (Hartsel '71) and Dan '71 Gerome were inducted into the Lakewood City Schools Hall of Fame. Sue was inducted as a staff member in 2000 and Dan was inducted as a coach in 1997. Dan was also inducted as an athletic director in the Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as well as the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Dan is presently a volunteer at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Richard Karlovec '78 retired on November 30, 2021, from Legals News Publishing Company. He is happily enjoying life with his wife, Peachilla Karlovec.



Lynne (Wesche '76) Strasser was presented the Outstanding Dedication Award by Alpha Chi Omega (AXO) national. This annual award is given to an alumna who provides outstanding service to AXO in collegiate and alumnae areas as well as community involvement in the name of the organization. Lynne

is an officer in the St. Louis alumnae chapter, a financial advisor to the AXO chapter at South East Missouri State, and a finance specialist in the Midwest region.

Kary (Adams '72) and Ron '73 Volpi celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 1, 2023.

## 1980s

Scott Daniels '84 is employed at Astoria/Agora international based out of Cleveland, Ohio.



Colonel Timothy Ott '83 is the chief operating officer of Randolph-Macon Academy, a private boarding school located in Front Royal, Virginia. He retired from the Senior Executive Service of the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 2022, having most recently served as treasury chair and assistant professor of national security strategy at the National War College. He retired from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 2014.

## 1990s

Kristie (Holmes '98) Ray earned her MBA from the University of Georgia in June 2023.

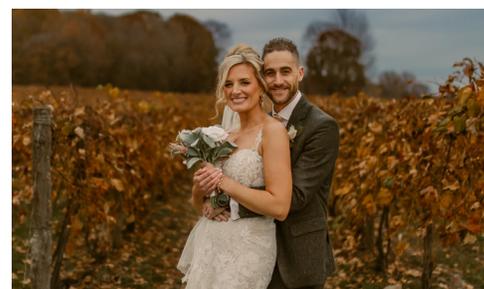
Scott Slabaugh '90 has been named the director of human resources and director of admissions at the Australian Interna-



tional School of Phnom Penh, Cambodia (AISPP). As the premier International Baccalaureate (IB) school in Cambodia, AISPP incorporates the world-class educational system of the Australian Curriculum and combines it with the internationally renowned IB Programmes. He has spent the past 10 years in Myanmar in a similar role.

## 2000s

Hannah Dengler '08 and Robert Mayer were married on November 2, 2023, in Geneva, Ohio.



Emily King '03 recently marked the five-year anniversary of launching her independent editorial business, Emily King Editorial Services ([emilykingeditor.com](http://emilykingeditor.com)). She has edited more than 100 fiction and nonfiction books for self-published and traditionally-published authors, as well as textbooks, reports, articles, brochures, and marketing materials.



Tim Lydon '07 is the founder and director of Harmony Dog Rescue, which serves the greater Pittsburgh area. The organization provides temporary emergency boarding for dogs whose owners are going through a crisis. To learn more, visit [harmonydogrescue.org](http://harmonydogrescue.org).

Jackson Lewis' Pittsburgh Office Managing Principal and Litigation Manager Marla Presley '00 was sworn in as the

president of the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA).



## 2010s

Brandon Alexander '10 graduated summa cum laude from American Public University with a Master of Science in cybersecurity studies.



Stacy (Mann '11) Brown announces the birth of a son, Lucas, on October 6, 2022.



Jennifer (Mills '12) and Joseph Conley announce the birth of a daughter, Payton Ann, on May 24, 2023, who joins sibling, Piper.



Laura Coxe '14 and Jeremy Walker '14 were married on August 19, 2023. Jeremy works in construction management for Babcock and Wilcox, and Laura is

an onboarding accounting manager for Dynamic Logistix. They are the parents of a son, Whit.



Christopher Cugini '13 was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Prevention Action Alliance in Columbus, Ohio. He will be serving on the finance and development committees. This is a statewide organization that helps prevent substance misuse and promotes mental health and wellness.



Britanny (Lyons '14) and John Deibel announce the birth of a daughter, Hallie, on September 21, 2023.



Shelby Gerwin '18 and Mitchell Fete '18 were married on June 3, 2023, at Gideon Owen Wine Company on Catawba Island in Port Clinton, Ohio.



Kayla Hogue '11 and Daniel Risher were married on July 8, 2023, at Waters Edge

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni and Friends,

I invite you to "catch the fever" at Mount Union. Of course, I'm not referring to the germs that are always circulating around schools and colleges. I hope you catch the contagious excitement of change and growth at Mount Union.

Spend some time in the newly-renovated Campus Grounds, complete with a garage door and fire pit. Check out the new banners, marketing brochures, website updates, or student spotlights. Do you know about growing majors or grad programs in fields such as nursing and engineering? Have you heard about our new sport in women's wrestling? Have you visited the new Wayne Manzilla Inclusion Center?

I encourage you to read the email updates or take a walk around campus. Spread the word to others (especially high school students) about why you chose to call Mount Union home. We need YOU to show up and show your support of Mount Union through your word-of-mouth communication, support of the Mount Union Fund, and involvement on campus.

I can't wait to see what 2024 has in store for the Raiders!

Jen (Thurin '03) Slack  
Alumni Association President



**2023 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS**

(l-r) Lynn Riggle, McKinley Fellow Award; Tim Hatton '12, Young Alumni Award; Pat (McFarland '71) Kovach-Gates, Dodie Davis Alumni Service Award



**SHOW UP  
AND CELEBRATE**  
ALUMNI WEEKEND, HOMECOMING, AND FAMILY DAY 2023

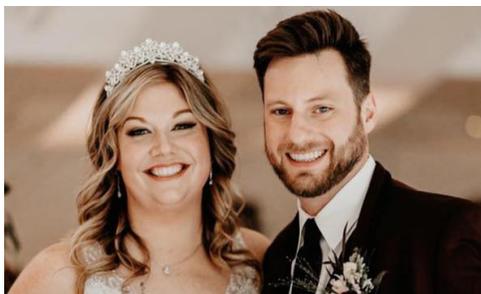


SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! OCTOBER 11-13, 2024



Vineyard in Louisville, Ohio. Both teach at T.C. Knapp Elementary in the Perry Local School District.

Holly (Fabrizio '12) and Alex '10 Koehler announce the birth of a son, Luca Wyatt, on February 7, 2023.



Nicole (Larkin '14) and Matthew '15 Jacques announce the birth of a daughter, Colette, on November 11, 2022.

Lauren (Shaub '10) and Brian '10 Mogus announce the birth of a son, Miles Allen, on June 19, 2023, who joins siblings Madison and Maverick.

Julie Jakmides '14 has expanded her Alliance, Ohio law practice to include the full spectrum of family law issues, criminal defense, civil litigation ranging from business disputes to injuries, and insurance claim/coverage negotiation. She and her father, Jeffrey Jakmides '74, have an office in Alliance, and she is raising her two daughters, Evelyn and Eleanor.



Taylor (Sassa '10) and Andrew '10 Neimes announce the birth of a son, Boden, on November 27, 2023, who joins siblings Mackenzie, 5, and Zoey, 3. Boden's grandparents are Kathy (Johnson '79) and Joel '78 Sassa.

Holly (Herstine '10, M'17) and Jeff Kibler announce the birth of a son, Carter, on November 26, 2023, who joins sibling, Mason.



Diana Kloboves '19 is employed by Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine. She leads the Physician Assistant Program, serving as the academic affairs manager.

Marilyn (Miller '13) Orseno was selected by the Gilder Lehrman Institute as the 2023 Ohio History Teacher of the Year.



# ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



## **MIKE JARRETT '87**

Mike has been named to the “Northeast Ohio Smart 50” list by Smart Business. He is the president and CEO of Jarrett Logistics and serves as a member of Mount Union’s Board of Trustees.



## **DR. SHUVO ROY '92**

Shuvo, technical director of The Kidney Project and professor of bioengineering at the University of California San Francisco, was profiled for making progress on the world’s first bio-artificial kidney.



## **DR. MANDY (GEDDIS '98) CAPEL**

Mandy, professor of education and director of graduate programs in the School of Education at the University, was recently named an expert consultant as part of the Fulbright Specialist Program.

Tia (Corder '13) and Matt Palko announce the birth of a daughter, Evelynne, on September 29, 2022.



Jillian (Panczyk '10) and Chris Polley announce the birth of a daughter, Allie Nicole, on October 16, 2023.



Abbey (Chandler '14) and Blake '12 Rhein announce the birth of a daughter, Sadie Margaret, on April 5, 2023.



Claire (Gliozzi '16) and Tyler Parobek announce the birth of a daughter, Cora Scarlett, on March 7, 2023.

Alex (Caley '14) and Jeff '14 Polen announce the birth of a daughter, Lyla, on November 27, 2023.



Taylor (Dowling '15) Prelac is the founder of Brooks Bereavement Bears, a non-profit organization that gives teddy bears to women in Ohio who have miscarriages. The organization has partnered with Cleveland Clinic Mercy Medical Center, Aultman Hospital, and Stark Women’s Center. To date, more than 400 bears have been given.



Kristin (Reeder '11, M'17) and John Ryan announce the birth of a daughter, Hayley Michelle, on May 22, 2023. Hayley’s grandparents are Larry '83 and Jill (Sawyer '85) Reeder.



Angela (Paridon '14, M'16) and Rob '14 Sassa announce the birth of a daughter, Cora, on October 6, 2022. Cora’s grand-



### **DR. AMBER HUNT '03**

Amber, associate professor of finance and director of the School of Business at Mount Union, was cited as an expert source in a recent WalletHub article about home improvement loan best practices.



### **SARA (DODSON '03) REITH**

Sara founded OHuddle, a youth mentorship program. The program was featured in Capital Ideas, the statewide publication of Farmers National Bank. Nearly 600 students have benefited from OHuddle to date.



### **ROBYN BROWN '17**

Robyn, senior manager of brand and content strategy with the Phoenix Mercury, continues to leave her mark on the sports industry. Robyn recently was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30: Sports, recognized for her drive and powerful digital storytelling.

parents are Kathy (Johnson '79) and Joel '78 Sassa.



Cody (Miller '14) Stoll was named to the Mahoning Valley Young Professionals 25 Under 35 listing.



Courtney (Mendel '14) and James Toth announce the birth of a daughter, Remmi, on October 24, 2020. Remmi's grandfather is Dr. Ron Mendel, professor of exercise science at Mount Union.

## **DEATHS**

### **1930s**

Evelyn (German '39) Jones of Dellroy, Ohio passed away on October 7, 2023.

### **1940s**

Charles Ketcham '49, the husband of Joyce (Parker '50) Ketcham, of Lexington, Massachusetts, passed away on April 15, 2023. He was the son of Dr. Charles B. Ketcham, who served as president of Mount Union from 1938 until 1953.

Carol (Paull '48) Ogline of Sebring, Ohio passed away on December 12, 2023.

Ruth Anne (Myers '46) Swift of Paris, Ohio passed away on October 18, 2023.

Stella (Pastis '47) Thomas of Clearwater, Florida passed away on May 13, 2023.

### **1950s**

Mary Jane (Noble '53) Bair of Deland, Florida passed away on December 15, 2023.

Arthur Bell '50 of Venice, Florida passed away on November 25, 2023.

Nancy (Byron '59) Buterbaugh of Las Vegas, Nevada passed away on June 11, 2023. She was preceded in death by her brother, Dr. Richard Byron '53. She is survived by her husband, Dr. John Buterbaugh '57, three children, eight grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Samuel Douglass '55 of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away on January 15, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Judith (King '55) Douglass.

Robert Fronk '58 of Weston, Massachusetts passed away on September 5, 2023.

Sharon (Swimley '52) Glass of Alliance, Ohio passed away on May 22, 2023.

Alice (White '51) Kiel of San Antonio, Texas passed away on June 26, 2023.

Marvin Lautzenheiser '53 of Springfield, Virginia passed away on June 6, 2023.

David Owens '53 of Olmsted Falls, Ohio passed away on April 23, 2023.

Burnel Pinkerton '51 of Brunswick, Ohio passed away on September 14, 2023.

Sandra (Stinson '59) Quay of Edmond, Oklahoma passed away on July 25, 2023.

James Vogelgesang '57 of Littleton, Colorado passed away on March 14, 2023.

Ronald Riggs '59 of Crossville, Tennessee passed away on December 12, 2023.

James Smith '58 of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away on December 31, 2023.

William "Mac" Wilson '50 of Sun City Center, Florida passed away on April 10, 2023. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly (Gerber '50) Wilson. He is survived by four children and spouses, including Kathy (Wilson '77) and Gary '77 McNeil, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

## **1960s**

Roberta Abbey '61 of Mentor, Ohio passed away on June 15, 2023.

David Albert '66 of Alliance, Ohio passed away on June 14, 2023.

Pamela (Craig '67) Anderson of The Villages, Florida passed away on September 13, 2023.

Thomas Burdette '63 of Canfield, Ohio passed away on February 25, 2023.

Gladys (Howe '63) Crowder of Albany, New York passed away on May 31, 2023.

William Dieringer '63 of Dellroy, Ohio passed away on May 13, 2023.

Ralph Hodgdon, Jr. '63 of Wooster, Ohio passed away on May 23, 2023.

Janet (Zimmerman '61) Kauffman of Creston, Ohio passed away on September 5, 2023.

Frederick Klippert '62 of Alliance, Ohio passed away on October 8, 2023.

Ellen (Miller '62) Mains of Cincinnati, Ohio passed away on May 21, 2023.

John McFarland '65 of Ravenna, Ohio passed away on June 4, 2023.

Constance (Dichler '63) Simmons of New Philadelphia, Ohio passed away December 1, 2023.

Meredith (Denny '66) Smart of Meadville, Pennsylvania passed away on July 12, 2023.

David Straiko '68 of Clayton, North Carolina passed away on June 2, 2023.

Denver Werstler '66 of Canton, Ohio passed away on July 20, 2023.

Joan (Kiefer '66) Zenteno of Smyrna, Georgia passed away on January 9, 2024.

## **1970s**

Janet (Grey '70) Crossland of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away on December 12, 2023.

Janice (Conrad '75) Gibson of Perry, Ohio passed away on August 3, 2023.

Carol (Stewart '71) Hermann of Walterboro, South Carolina passed away on January 7, 2024.

Marilyn Kornick '74 of Lakewood, Ohio passed away on January 3, 2024.

Jack Maybury '72 of Hebron, Ohio passed away on September 13, 2023.

Patricia Thompson '78 of York, Pennsylvania passed away on October 28, 2023.

## **1980s**

Bernard Brown, Jr. '88 of Alliance, Ohio passed away on August 11, 2023.

Amy (Thiebeau '84) Koehler of Watertown, New York passed away on October 8, 2023.

David Kunz '89 of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico passed away on January 12, 2024.

Matthew Mayle '80 of Canton, Ohio passed away on August 4, 2023.

Daniel Strine '80 of Ashland, Ohio passed away on August 22, 2023.

Robert Walchalk '80 of Akron, Ohio passed away on August 28, 2023.

Beth Wiemers '83 of Newark, Ohio passed away on October 26, 2023.

## **1990s**

Valerie (Jones '93) Vinson of Alliance, Ohio passed away on July 4, 2023.

Jason Weigand '97 of Saint Augustine, Florida passed away on December 23, 2023.

## **2010s**

Jacob Nees '18 of Medina, Ohio passed away on August 6, 2023.

## **2020s**

Hayden Carman '21 of Marietta, Ohio passed away on January 12, 2024. He is the son of Dr. Brad '84 and Stephanie Carman.

# TRUSTEES

Charles Webb of Columbus, Ohio passed away on June 22, 2023. He served on the Board of Trustees at the University of Mount Union in the 1990s.

# EMPLOYEES

Walter “Jim” Dillon of Canton, Ohio passed away on August 28, 2022. He was a math professor at Mount Union from 1981 through his retirement in 2004.

Linda Freet of Salem, Ohio passed away on June 1, 2023. Mrs. Freet worked for AVI for 17 years.

Sam Geonetta of San Marcos, Texas passed away on June 13, 2023. He served on the faculty at Mount Union.

Gloria Malone of Alliance, Ohio passed away June 16, 2023. She worked for the University as a faculty member in the Department of English for 20 years until her retirement.

Judith McMillin Chambers of Stockton, California passed away on July 11, 2023. Dr. Chambers spent eight years as dean of women and assistant professor of speech at the University during 1960-1968.

Marilyn Middleton passed away on December 11, 2023. She was a cook for Sigma Nu Fraternity at Mount Union for many years.

John Shaffer '59 of Orangeburg, South Carolina passed away on December 25, 2023. He was a professor at the University in the early 2000s.



## SCHOOLER LECTURE

Join us for the 2024 Schooler Lecture featuring consumer advocate and environmental activist Erin Brockovich on Thursday, April 25 at 8 p.m.

It's been more than 20 years since the film, *Erin Brockovich*, turned an unknown legal researcher into a 20th-century icon. Her exhaustive investigation as a file clerk at Masry & Vititoe, in part, led to the largest direct action lawsuit of its kind, against Pacific Gas & Electric.

Complimentary tickets will be available February 26 at [moun-tunion.edu/schooler-lecture-2024](https://moun-tunion.edu/schooler-lecture-2024).

# Friends

Roy Anderson of Milton, Vermont passed away on August 27, 2023. He attended Mount Union in the early 1960s.

Lois (Wafler) Bossert of Alliance, Ohio passed away on August 25, 2023. She attended Mount Union in the early 1950s.

Walter Hoover, Jr. of Canton, Ohio passed away on August 27, 2023. He attended Mount Union in the early 1980s.

Marilyn Horton, wife of Richard Horton '51 and sister-in-law of Eugene “Duke” Barret '51, passed away on June

5, 2023. Marilyn and Dick were married 72 years.

Donald Peterson, Jr. of Alliance, Ohio passed away on July 16, 2023. He was the son of the late Donald '39 and Josephine (Hoiles '40) Peterson.

Joyce Sassa of Jacksonville, Florida passed away on October 7, 2023. She was the mother of Larry Sassa '76, and Joel '78 and Kathleen (Johnson '79) Sassa. She was also the grandmother of Lindsey (Sassa '06) and Andrew '07 Mangus, Taylor (Sassa '10) and Andrew '10 Neimes, and Robert '14 and Angela (Paridon '14, M'16) Sassa.

Cynthia Sheehan of Naples, Florida passed away on October 3, 2023. She attended Mount Union in the mid-1950s.

Judith Thompson of Lisbon, Ohio passed away on August 30, 2023. She attended Mount Union in the mid-1950s.

James VanPelt of Minerva, Ohio passed away on August 2, 2023. He attended Mount Union in the late 1950s.

Catherine (Carr) Watson of Alliance, Ohio passed away on July 8, 2023. She attended Mount Union in the early 1970s.

Joel Wolfgang of Akron, Ohio passed away on August 12, 2023. He attended Mount Union in the late 1970s.



# BRIDGING PASSIONS AND GRATITUDE

## BEN JONES '24 AND HIS JOURNEY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION

The journey of Ben Jones '24 from his hometown of Nennah, Wisconsin to Mount Union was fueled by his desire to play lacrosse at the collegiate level and study engineering.

“It was difficult to find a school that had strong programs in both of my passions, but Mount Union had both,” said Jones. “I was drawn to its athletics and engineering programs. From the first time I visited, I just felt the atmosphere on campus was incredible.”

Four years later, Jones has not only left a mark on the lacrosse field but has also made significant contributions to the civil engineering program, all while building lasting friendships.

“My time on the lacrosse field with my teammates has been great,” said Jones. “What I expected less, but have absolutely loved, is how close I have become with my cohort of engineering majors. We have spent so much time together throughout the years. We really feel like a family.”

Part of what brought his cohort close was their trip abroad to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to complete their global requirement for the engineering program. Jones described a flood detection system they built to implement when they arrived in the UAE.

“Traveling to Dubai was incredible. Taking in the landscape and experiencing what a cultural mixing pot it is was an unforgettable experience,” said Jones. “It was great to interact with students there and work together on our project. Our initial concept looked a lot cooler drawn on paper than after we built it. But it worked, and it still works today!”

Jones' experiences abroad and on campus would not have been possible without scholarship support. He attributes his drive to succeed as a result of that support too.

“Honestly, the scholarships that have made my education possible inspire me to work harder,” he said. “I come from a middle-class family, so attending school nine hours from home can be financially challenging at times. I'm grateful to everyone who has made this possible for me.”

For Ben, expressing gratitude to the donors is more than a formality – it's a heartfelt acknowledgment of the impact their support has had on his journey.

“Not everyone is in a position or has the passion to donate to Mount Union,” he said. “When people can and are excited to do so, it makes a real difference for students like me. I love this place, and I am so grateful for my experience. I really can't say 'thank you' enough.”

# ENDOW A SCHOLARSHIP

You can help make a future student's dream of attending Mount Union a reality by endowing a scholarship in three easy steps:

1

## ESTABLISH YOUR GIFT AMOUNT

The minimum gift for an endowed scholarship is \$25,000.

This amount can be paid over time if this is more comfortable for you. (example: \$5,000 a year over five years)

2

## DESCRIBE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

Do you want to memorialize a former classmate or family member in the scholarship name? Who do you want to benefit from your scholarship? An art major? A scientist? A first-year student hailing from your high school alma mater? The options are limitless.

3

## TRANSFORM A STUDENT'S LIFE

Once the full amount is received, the fund must sit for one year to grow before it is awarded. Every year afterward, you will receive a financial report on your scholarship, including your scholarship recipient's name. Because the fund is endowed, the principal investment is never touched and will live on in perpetuity.



## VIRTUAL STADIUM SELL OUT

Mount Union celebrated Purple Raider athletics in November with teams competing in the University's fourth-annual Virtual Stadium Sell Out. In just one week, 607 Purple Raider fans came together, raising \$88,003 in support for M Club and the institution's student-athletes and filling 8,800 virtual seats.

The competition was fierce all week, and all of the Purple Raider teams are thankful for the overwhelming support contributors gave. At the top of the leaderboard was women's golf, which filled 2,303 seats and secured an additional \$1,000 for its program, thanks to Athletic Director Mike '83 and Karen Parnell.

## LEADERBOARD

Sport	Donors	Total Raised
Women's Golf	71	\$34,030
Men's Wrestling	54	\$13,305
Men's Lacrosse	50	\$6,310
Football	37	\$4,740
Softball	150	\$4,170

VIRTUAL STADIUM SELL OUT  
BY THE NUMBERS

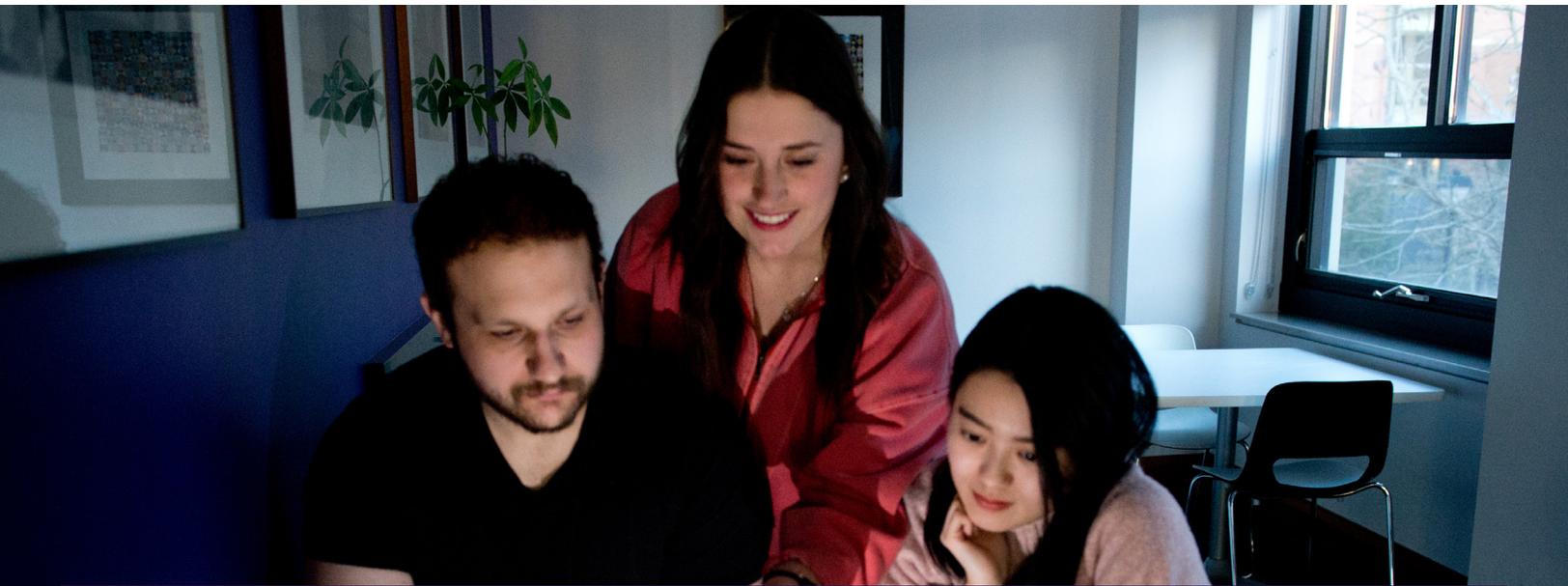
607  
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