

# CLASS NOTES

Class Notes to be included in the Spring/Summer 2023 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before April 30, 2023.

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).

## 1960s

**James Chester '69**

who's part of the Central Intelligence Agency alumni, was welcomed back to Langley on Saturday, September 10 in recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the agency. Jim joined his former directorate of operations colleagues, as well as other agency directorates, in celebration of this milestone.

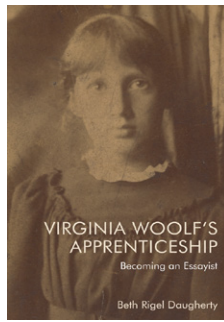


**Chuck Ditchendorf '62** and **Ellen Campbell '03** are fellow Rotarians in the Marietta Morning Rotary Club, and both are Paul Harris Fellows. Ellen recently organized a very successful 5k run that raised money for the club's reading and scholarship activities.



## 1970s

**Beth (Rigel '72) Daugherty** published a book, "Virginia Woolf's Apprenticeship: Becoming an Essayist," in July 2022. For more information, visit: [edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-virginia-woolf-s-apprenticeship.html](http://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-virginia-woolf-s-apprenticeship.html). She retired from Otterbein University in July 2020 after 36 years of teaching.



**Susan (Hartsel '71) and Dan '71 Gerome** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 17, 2022.



**Shari (Creed '72) and Mike '71 McConnell** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 5, 2022.



**Diane Wondisford '74** was named one of 75 key figures who have shaped the American opera field over the past 50 years.

## 1980s

**Joanna (Greene '85) Jones** and friends from the classes of 1984 through 1986 met this past summer in State College, Pennsylvania. Kneeling: **Nancy (McLoone '85) Ziemba**, **Heather (Clark '84) McGee**. Back row: **Andy Mudd '85**, **Dr. Pamela (Toot '86) Lanford**, **Dr. Bill McGee '85**, **Bob Jones '85**, and **Joanna (Greene '85) Jones**.



**Ken Rector '88, Doug Izzard '88, Michael Ross '88, and David Demers '88** were on the first tee of the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. The four alumni spent 10 days playing seven of the top courses across Scotland in July 2022.

## 1990s

**Cathy (LaForest '91) Petra** earned a gold medal in the javelin throw and earned bronze medals in the discus and the shot put, while participating in the 2022 National Senior Games. Her javelin throw of 98'1" places her eighth in the all-time top 10 performances in the NSGA for her age group. Cathy is currently employed as an athletic trainer.

**Patricia Russell '90**

earned a Ph.D. in health psychology in May 2022 from The University of Texas at San Antonio. She is working as a health scientist at the Rocky Mountain Veterans Affairs Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center for Suicide Prevention in Denver, Colorado.



**Christina (Sommers '92) Sussmann** wrote a movie based on the book "Angel Mine" by Jimmy Taaffe. Filmed in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York City, it is scheduled for release in early 2023. Christina is an award-winning screenwriter and sought-after writer. She also owns The Affordable Ghostwriter.

**Jeremy Tiermini '94** received the State University of New York's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service during the 2022 spring semester.

## 2000s

**Rachael (Moser '04) Corke** moved to Luxembourg to build a new lower school theatre program at the International School Luxembourg.

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE



Have you been to campus recently? If not, I challenge you to step on campus and reminisce a bit! One of my favorite reasons to come back to campus is one of the reasons it brought me there in the first place: It feels like HOME! It takes me back to those carefree days of classes, amazing opportunities, friends for life, and memories I won't ever be able to duplicate. Why not step back into those memories while you take in today's college scene:

take a walk on campus, eat in the campus center, or visit one of the recent upgrades like Oak Hall, the Kehres Plaza near the stadium, or the new amphitheater next to our beautiful campus lakes.

Most recently, I had the opportunity to step on campus for Mount Union's Alumni Weekend and Homecoming. What a great way to see the familiar faces of Mount Union. We honored alumni and friends who have stood out and made a difference at the Alumni Awards Recognition Ceremony. I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Gervasi, who has graciously

and enthusiastically taken on the reins of leading the campus community as our interim president. I heard the roar of the crowd cheering on a win at Kehres Stadium.

You may wonder how you can keep the spirit of your time at Mount Union alive. Here are a few ways we need *you*:

- Talk about Mount Union (especially to young students!). Tell them why you loved our campus, programs, experiences, etc. You are our best recruiters!
- Get back in contact with college advisors, coaches, or professors in your field. Guest speakers, mentors, advocates, and connections are all needed!
- Give! You can make a difference in the ability of today's students to continue their education at Mount Union.
- Join the Alumni Association. We share ideas, help at events on campus, and plan ways to connect to students and other alums.
- Above all, bleed that purple. Thank YOU for being a part of the Mount Union story.

Go Raiders!  
- Jen (Thurin '03) Slack  
Alumni Association President

**Jessica (Harding '03)** and **Sekhar Mamidi** were married on June 10-11, 2022, in Massillon and Canton, Ohio. The couple resides in Massillon, Ohio.

**Crystal (Liptak '06)** and **Phillip '06 Mansfield** announce the birth of their second daughter, **Lydia Brooklyn** on June 1, 2021.



**Sarah (Brockett '09)** and **Ryan '09 McFeely** announce the birth of a daughter, **Emma Gabriella**, in December 2021. She joins siblings **Brooke**, **Addison**, and **Lillian**.

**Lara (Mueller '04)** and **Bob Lejsovka** announce the birth of a son, **Calvin Robert**, on December 29, 2021.

## 2010s

**Makayla Hart '19** and **Chris Brown '18** were married in May 2022.



**Gina (Serluco '10)** and **Andrew '11 Brown** announce the birth of a daughter, **Mirabella Giulia**, on May 1, 2022. Andrew is currently account manager for Happy Floors, and Gina is the principal of Grant Elementary School in Willoughby, Ohio.



**Marissa (Earl '13)** and **Sean '14 Butler** announce the birth of a daughter, **Rylee Ann** on February 4, 2022.



**Savannah Morris '18** and **AJ Digby '20** were married on February 12, 2022. Mount Union alumni in the wedding included **Erica Mascio '18** and **Tanner Slack '20**.





**2022 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS**  
(l-r) Roy Clunk '77, Dodie Davis Alumni Service Award; Ida Gorman '13, Young Alumni Award; Dr. Bill Coleman, McKinley Fellow Award.



**2022 ALUMNI  
WEEKEND  
HOMECOMING**





# ALUMNI WEEKEND AND HOMECOMING



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2023

# SUPPORT

## FOR STUDENTS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

To senior Caleb Thurman, Mount Union means opportunity.

“I’ve had opportunities to travel the world in the international choir tour, opportunities to network and meet different people, opportunities to learn in the classroom and outside of it too,” Thurman said.

One of Thurman’s first experiences with Mount Union was a choral masterclass at his high school with Mount Union’s own Dr. Grant Cook.

“In my experience with masterclasses, you sing for the visiting instructor, and then you get ripped apart with critique,” said Thurman. “Dr. Cook’s vibe was so different. With him, we read poetry and different messages to help us find the motivation within ourselves to improve rather than be motivated by someone else. It was amazing.”

Once Thurman learned about the Choral Participation Scholarship, he couldn’t wait to visit campus.

“I visited Mount my junior year and met with, now retired, Professor DeSario. He was one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever met, and he really inspired me. I learned so much in the few classes I had with him,” said Thurman. “That visit made up my mind, which was great because then I could fully enjoy my senior year of high school.”

Thurman was a talented wrestler throughout high school and was recruited by several universities for the sport including Mount Union, but ultimately had to give it up.

“I have both rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn’s disease, so it’s just too hard on my body,” said Thurman. “If I didn’t have choir and my fraternity, I would go crazy.”

When he got to campus, Thurman learned there was a fraternity involved in the Serious Fun Children’s Network, a global community of camps and programs for seriously ill children. More specifically, the fraternity worked with Flying Horse Farms, which Thurman attended for years. He didn’t know which fraternity was affiliated with these organizations, but he was determined to find out.



CALEB THURMAN '22  
Political Science Major  
Akron, Ohio

“I saw someone wearing their letters at the student center and asked what their philanthropy focus was,” Thurman shared. “Turned out it was Phi Kappa Tau. I told him about my experience with the camp, went to the house to meet some of the members, and the rest is history.”

This spring, all Thurman had built at Mount Union was threatened by some financial trouble. He had to use most of his savings throughout the pandemic and hadn’t had enough time to build it back up. Fortunately, Caleb heard about the Student Emergency Fund and applied for the aid that is now helping him afford his last semester at Mount Union.

“The people who have given to this fund are truly a blessing. This award took away the stress of my finances,” Caleb explained. “The fact that people understand that there is inequality in the world and across this campus and are thoughtful enough to pay forward their good fortune to people struggling in school trying to better themselves, it makes such a difference. It really all adds up and is such a blessing.”

As for what’s next, Thurman recently accepted a job offer to serve as a business specialist for the non-profit Downtown Akron Partnership, and is thrilled to impact the city he loves through his work with this organization.

The Student Emergency Fund launched as part of The Mount Union Fund in March 2020 as a response to the financial hardships students were facing resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the fund serves as a crucial resource for Purple Raiders in dire financial need.

Whether a student has exhausted all financial aid and are still falling short on their tuition bill, or something unexpected like a family illness changes their circumstances, the Student Emergency Fund is there to help students continue their education.

Vincent Fung '23 applied to Mount Union not knowing exactly where Ohio was on a map.

“I came to the states from Hong Kong when I was 17 to attend a private high school in Kansas,” Fung said. “I didn’t even speak English when I first moved to America. I don’t know how I did it, but I did it.”

While in Kansas, Fung heard about Mount Union from one of his teachers and decided to apply. He was accepted and decided it is where he would attend school.

“I didn’t even look into any other universities. I really trusted that teacher’s opinion and she knew the former president Dr. Merriman,” Fung explained. “It’s so interesting for me to go somewhere completely new. I can’t say I don’t get nervous, but I’m always willing to try it.”

As a part of the 3+1 medical laboratory science major, Fung spent three years on Mount Union’s campus and is now studying at the Cleveland Clinic. Though Vincent is enjoying all he is learning living in Cleveland and studying at the Clinic, he misses Alliance.

“I really miss my friends on campus and my ATO brothers. But I’m so busy it’s hard to get back and see them. I’m going to come back and walk for graduation; I would not miss that,” he said.

Fung packed a lot into his three years on campus. He worked in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for Dawn Adams, was a resident assistant, and worked for the Physical Plant. He was also involved in Association of International Students and Japanese Club.

“I trimmed every tree outside of the HPCC and I was very proud of that,” he said.

It was through his involvement on campus and connection with Adams that he found out about the Student Emergency Fund when he was having trouble paying his student account.



VINCENT FUNG '23  
Medical Laboratory Science Major  
Hong Kong, China

“I was so excited when I learned I received the aid. I would not have applied for it if I was not desperate for help,” he said. “I am so appreciative to those who contributed because it helped me continue my education.”

Fung has many fond memories of Mount Union as he reflects on his time as a student and is looking forward to working in a medical lab immediately following graduation in the spring.

“In the beginning, Mount Union was just a university, but it eventually became my home,” said Fung. “As an international student, the friends I’ve made at Mount, and the support I have from my professors, from the Student Emergency Fund is all just amazing. There’s a small group of international students on campus, but Mount Union works hard to include us and make us feel part of the University. I’m so thankful for that.”

**Brian Farnham '14** won the 59<sup>th</sup> SCCA National Championship Runoffs taking place September 24 – October 2 at Virginia International Raceway.



**Rachel Brumenschenkel '18** and **Andy Fields '17** were married on June 4, 2022, in Mansfield, Ohio. Members of their party included **Morgan Brumenschenkel '18**, **Jess Calhoun '18**, **Riley McMahon '16**, **Jake O'Neal '16**, **Dan Coffey '16**, **Andrew Steidl '18**, and **Steven Phipps '18**. The couple resides in Wauconda, Illinois.



**Megan Stacey '12** and **Micah Goldfarb** were married on June 26, 2022 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The wedding party included alumnae **Elizabeth Juran '13** and **Kelly (Emery '12) Buechner**. The couple resides in New York, New York.



**Chelsey (Bruce '14) Kirkland** graduated with a Ph.D. in public health from Kent State University's College of Public Health. She works as a researcher within the Center for Public Health Systems in the School of Public Health at University of Minnesota.

**Rebekah (Davis '16)** and **Jesse Wissler** announce the birth of a daughter, **Phoebe Violet**, on May 23, 2022.



## Deaths

### 1940s

**Roy Estep '49** of Canton, Ohio passed away on August 13, 2022.

**William Gebhart '48** of Santa Barbara, California passed away on July 7, 2022.

**Robert Hively '43** of Akron, Ohio passed away on June 24, 2022.

**Betty Lou (Baker '48) Honaker** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on July 28, 2022.

**Phyllis (Fixler '46) Krabill** of Akron, Ohio passed away on August 24, 2022.

**Ellen Wulf '47** of Hilliard, Ohio passed away on September 11, 2022.

### 1950s

**Richard Bucarion '57** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on July 29, 2022.

**Elinor Currie '55** of Sun City Center, Florida passed away on June 21, 2022.

**Gary Greenamyer '59** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on May 11, 2022.

**Nancy (Sampson '50) Hank** of Bluffton, South Carolina passed away on August 4, 2022.

**Popey (Antoney '58) Kleon** of Canton, Ohio passed away on May 19, 2022.

**Wayne Laughlin '53** of Salem, Ohio passed away on August 23, 2022.

**Richard Masters '52** of Crestwood, Kentucky passed away on August 28, 2022.

**Nancy (Long '59) Patterson** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on August 22, 2022.

**Richard Raebel '52** of Canton, Georgia passed away on September 12, 2022.

**Mary (Guerra '52) Willmot** of Peru, Illinois passed away on May 13, 2022.

**Beverly (Gerber '50) Wilson** of Sun City Center, Florida and Short Gap, West Virginia, passed away on July 14, 2022. She is survived by husband **Mac Wilson '50** and four children, including **Kathy (Wilson '77) McNeil** and her husband **Gary McNeil '77**.

### 1960s

**Beth Boyer '69** of Dayton, Ohio passed away on June 6, 2022.

**John Capper '62** of Mount Vernon, Ohio passed away on May 21, 2022.

**Anne (Shilts '61) Crowl** of Canton, Ohio passed away on August 26, 2022.

**Paul Dustman '61** of Lisbon, Ohio passed away on May 7, 2022.

**Lawrence Gross '66** of New Kensington, Pennsylvania passed away on June 21, 2022.

**James Howenstine '66** of Jupiter, Florida passed away on September 17, 2022.

**Eric Johnson '67** of Fitchburg, Wisconsin passed away on May 29, 2022.

**David Livingston '63** of Aurora, Ohio passed away on September 22, 2022.

**John Martin '69** of Chardon, Ohio passed away on May 15, 2022.

**Ann (White '63) McIntosh** of Bloomington, Indiana passed away on August 19, 2022.

**Leslie "Les" Peine '67** of Sebring, Ohio passed away on August 10, 2022.

**Karen (Lampe '64) Quick** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on October 15, 2022.

**Karen Robinson '66** of Avon, Ohio passed away on June 9, 2022.

**Stephen Sivulich '62** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away on April 24, 2022.

**Allen Slagle '62** of Canfield, Ohio passed away on August 12, 2022.

**Ronald Smith '64** of Wellsville, Ohio passed away on October 11, 2022.

**Mary Wick '65** of Warren, Ohio passed away on June 26, 2022.

## 1970s

**Jack Chapple '75** of Sanibel, Florida passed away on June 20, 2022.

**Roger Crowell '72** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on September 28, 2022.

**William Gollnitz '73** of Sheffield Village, Ohio passed away on May 2, 2022.

**Kenneth Stanley '73** of Montville, Ohio passed away on June 21, 2022.

## 1980s

**Scott Linhart '85** of Upper Sandusky, Ohio passed away on August 13, 2022.

## 2000s

**Benjamin Taylor '03** of Travelers Rest, South Carolina passed away August 8, 2022.

## Friends

Edward Johnson of North Canton, Ohio passed away on May 8, 2022. He attended in the late 1950s.

James Nichols of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on August 19, 2022. He attended in the mid-1950s.

Galen Monroe Oakes, Sr. of Jackson Township, Ohio passed away on July 18, 2022. He attended in the mid-1950s.

George Salsberry of Walterboro, South Carolina passed away on April 16, 2022. He was the spouse of **Linda (Couts '81) Salsberry**. For decades, both were reporters for The Alliance Review and their work included covering Mount Union.

Joanne (Princic) Schindelar of Dublin, Ohio passed away on June 9, 2022. She attended in the early 1970s.

John Sera of Norwood, Massachusetts passed away on May 5, 2022. He attended in the mid-1960s.

Douglass Tyla of Danbury, Connecticut passed away on October 17, 2022. He attended in the mid-1990s

John Uhrig of Orlando, Florida passed away on April 30, 2022. He attended in the early 1970s.

Melanie Vien of Alliance, Ohio passed away on May 26, 2022. She attended in the mid-1980s.

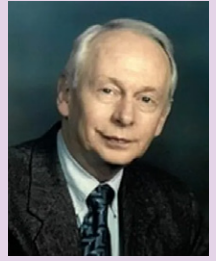
James Walker of Ravenna, Ohio passed away on July 11, 2022. He attended in the mid-1970s.

Steven Williams of Minerva, Ohio passed away on July 21, 2022. He attended in the mid-1980s.

## Mount Union Employees

### Dr. Walter Dillon

**Dr. Walter Dillon** of Medina, Ohio passed away on August 28, 2022. He was a mathematics professor before retiring.



### Dr. Paul Froman

**Dr. Paul Froman** of Lancaster, Ohio passed away on September 17, 2022. He taught religion and German and was the chaplain for many years.



### James "Jimmy" Gaurrich

**James "Jimmy" Gaurrich** of Ravenna, Ohio passed away on May 9, 2022. He was a scratch baker in AVI.

### Anna Hall

**Anna Hall** of Sebring, Ohio passed away on August 11, 2022. She worked in the Snack Bar.

### Erick Hendrickson

**Erick Hendrickson** of Louisville, Ohio passed away on October 5, 2022. He was a mathematics instructor.

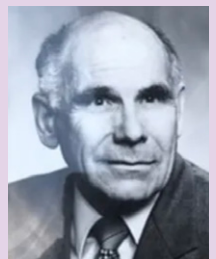
### Leonard "Lenny" Reich

**Leonard "Lenny" Reich** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on October 17, 2022. He was the assistant to the athletic director and sports information director for 14 years.



### Dr. Shea Zellweger

**Dr. Shea Zellweger**, of Alliance, Ohio passed away on August 7, 2022. He was the former chair of the Department of Psychology at Mount Union from 1969 to 1993.



Submit your Class Notes information at  
[mountunion.edu/alumni](http://mountunion.edu/alumni).



## 2023 RACHEL BOYCE LANG INTERNATIONAL CHOIR TOUR

Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends are welcome to join the Office of Alumni Engagement on an exciting 13-day trip to The Netherlands, Belgium, and France in conjunction with the UMU Choir trip May 17-29, 2023!



Visit [mountunion.edu/northern-europe](https://mountunion.edu/northern-europe) to learn more.

MOUNT  UNION

# Women

The Mount Union Women organization has been supporting the education of women at Mount Union since 1933. The group raises funds to provide scholarships to deserving students on campus identifying as female.

As a nonprofit organization, Mount Union Women volunteers at the concession stands at home football games and host various social events for alumni and friends.

Any female graduate or friend of Mount Union may join! For information on how to get involved or to donate to the scholarship fund, visit [mountunionwomen.org](https://mountunionwomen.org). You can also see what the group is up to by following along on Facebook and Instagram!



M Club is the varsity letter winners' association. A student-athlete lettering in a varsity sport (men's or women's) at Mount Union is automatically a member upon graduation. The group serves to keep athletes connected with one another and raise funds to support the current student-athletes (and teams) on campus!

M Club provides opportunities to get involved by attending meetings, athletic competitions, and events, as well as supporting Raider athletics. Up to 100% of each gift can be designated to the sport(s) of your choice or the general M Club fund!

# VIRGINIA "GINNY" BARTHOLOMEW '95: A LIFE AND LEGACY CELEBRATED

While alumni gathered across campus this past homecoming weekend, Ginny Bartholomew's '95 legacy was celebrated by family, friends, and former classmates in the Giese Center for the Performing Arts.

Trustee Heidi Bartholomew '92, a former classmate of Ginny's (no relation), had envisioned this day for a while. Heidi established a scholarship in her classmate's memory in early 2020 and planned to have an event celebrating the scholarship and her friend's life during homecoming that fall.

"This was something that needed to be done in person," Heidi said. "And if it couldn't be done in person, we were going to wait until it could be."

Two years later, hosted by Heidi and fellow classmates Carrienne (Tingley '92) Tuckley, Laura (Roll '93) McGuinness, and Jim Krapenc '95, friends and family gathered and shared stories of Ginny's dynamic personality. Most described her as magnetic and, above all, kind. After graduation, Ginny went on to become an accomplished actor and director in New York City recognized and awarded for her work on stage and in film.

Associate Professor of Theatre Kevin Kern spoke about the theatre program and introduced the first recipient of the Bartholomew scholarship, theatre major Seth Tackett '25, describing him as a "warm, affable young man."

"Growing up with autism, I found it hard to relate to my peers. With theatre, I felt like I was a proper part of a group," said Tackett. "Mount Union has done that and more for me. It has a lot of resources for those who want to go into anything pertaining to the performing arts. My peers



and instructors have allowed me to grow as a performer and as a person. While I never knew Ginny personally, I can only strive to be as positive of an influence at both Mount Union and in the performing arts."

To make a gift to the Virginia "Ginny" Bartholomew '95 Endowed Scholarship, visit [giving.mountunion.edu/Ginny](https://giving.mountunion.edu/Ginny).

*Distributions from the renewable scholarship support a sophomore, junior, or senior student majoring in theater with at least a 3.0 GPA. The recipient must be in good academic and social standing with the approval of the Office of Student Financial Services and the theatre faculty in accordance with the approved procedures of the University of Mount Union.*

There are so many ways you, too, can make a lasting difference at Mount Union. For more information, contact The Office of University Advancement at (800) 992-6682, ext. 2286 or [advancement@mountunion.edu](mailto:advancement@mountunion.edu).



UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION 2022  
**VIRTUAL STADIUM SELL OUT**

**583**  
DONORS

**\$63,815**  
RAISED