

# MOUNT UNION

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SUMMER  
2015



DR. RICHARD F. AND SANDRA L.

Dr. Richard F. and Sandra L. Giese led with vision at the University of Mount Union from 2005 to 2015, advancing an already-strong college to a vibrant university in their 10-year tenure at the helm. Under their leadership, Mount Union celebrated enrollment, developed new relevant and in-demand undergraduate majors and its first graduate programs in nearly a century. The physical campus also experienced dramatic growth. Numerous new or renovated academic facilities were completed, as well as an expanded recreation and wellness center and dining commons. Student housing was transformed through new apartment-style villages and renovated traditional residence halls. In addition, the entire academic curriculum was revised to ensure the financial viability of the institution. The diversity of the student body and the campus community was enhanced, and the university reached all-time highs.

Prior to returning to Mount Union, Dr. Giese spent 19 years serving in various capacities. During this time, they earned the respect and loyalty of the students and faculty.

It is in recognition of their leadership in making this performance possible. The Giesees were instrumental in expanding space for the university in making the

stitution, the Giesees spent their time at Mount Union through their diligence and commitment to the institution by all.



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- Estate of Bonnie M. Ball
- Mrs. Martha J. Gartner
- Huntington Bank
- Estate of Richard Robart '50
- Dr. Clifford D. Shields, Emeritus Trustee
- Timken Foundation of Canton

## Silver

- Wiley and Suzan Goris
- Hoover Foundation
- Estate of Edward T. Jarowski '35
- Gastroianni Family
- Estate of Doris M. Meehan
- Estate of Alice Schmutz '37

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*The Giese Years*





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## *A tribute...*

Having had the opportunity to be the president of Mount Union for the past decade has been both an honor and a privilege. It will come as no surprise to those of you who know me well that my wife, Sandy, has been an incredible partner. I could not and would not have taken on this challenge without her. Behind the scenes, she has advised, counseled, comforted and supported. And when I needed it the most, she has been my best sounding board – caring, appropriate and constructive. She has an inner strength and heightened sense of values that are best appreciated by navigating a lifetime of challenges together.

During our 42 years of marriage, Sandy has given up much for me and my career. While I was finishing graduate school, she interrupted her education to work full-time to support us. Only when I completed my work was she able to return to college to complete her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She then pursued her career in education, first as an inspiring teacher and then, eventually, as an innovative elementary school principal, all the while being a loving mother to our son, Matthew, and the stable foundation of our family.

When I accepted the challenge of assuming my first college presidency 18 years ago at Monmouth College, it was yet another sacrifice for Sandy to give up her career. She selflessly accepted the demands placed on her that went along with my position. It should be noted that she possessed more comprehensive administrative experience than I when I accepted my first presidency in 1997.

We have served very much as a team over these many years. We do most things together. Often, when I would be at an event, telling the exciting story of Mount Union, I would look across the room and see Sandy doing the same thing with another group of friends. I have been truly blessed.

When I come home from work in the evenings, Sandy and I share our day's experiences. For me, in the past decade, it was always about what was happening at Mount. She helped me sort out what was most important and advised me on how to balance competing priorities. We will both miss these conversations about the daily excitement of our fine University, our many friends and our talented, enthusiastic students.

But we know Mount Union will continue to succeed and grow because of your commitment and support. You – the alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, students, parents and other loyal supporters – are the ones who have made Mount Union what it is today and will be the ones who will make it the successful Mount Union of tomorrow. I am indeed grateful to Sandy and to all of you for making my Mount Union experience truly rewarding and “exceptional.”

– Dr. Richard F. Giese  
President, University of Mount Union



## COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

DeHoff Development Company and Alliance Ventures are partners in a new shopping center – the Mount Union Gateway – located on State Street across from the University. The site is under construction and currently being leased. New tenants will include Farmer’s National Bank, Buffalo Wild Wings, Orange Leaf Yogurt, Papa Gyro’s and Georgio’s Pizza, as well as others. Businesses are expected to open in mid-summer prior to students returning to campus in the fall.

## GIESE AWARDED PRESIDENT EMERITUS STATUS

During its May meeting, the Mount Union Board of Trustees voted unanimously to grant president emeritus status to Dr. Richard F. Giese. The resolution presented to Giese notes his sustained exemplary service to the University and Stark County community and recognizes his outstanding contributions to the education of young men and women throughout the United States. The board also recognized Giese’s service on numerous boards and committees of educators.



## SPORT BUSINESS PROGRAM EARNS ACCREDITATION

Mount Union’s Bachelor of Arts in sport business program has earned accreditation from the Board of Commissioners of the Commission on Sport Management programs. Mount Union is one of only three programs in Ohio with this recognition.



## MOUNT UNION HONORED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

For the fifth consecutive year, the University of Mount Union has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a 2014 Tree Campus USA for its commitment to effective urban management.

In order to obtain this recognition, Mount Union had to meet five standards of conservation. These standards include maintaining a tree advisory committee, developing a campus tree-care plan, dedicating annual expenditures to a campus tree program, holding an Arbor Day observance and promoting a student learning service project.

In addition to being designated a Tree Campus USA, The Princeton Review selected Mount Union as one of the 353 most environmentally responsible colleges for the fifth consecutive year.

The Princeton Review chose the schools for the sixth annual edition of its “Green Guide” based on data from the company’s 2014 survey of hundreds of four-year colleges concerning the schools’ commitments to the environment and sustainability.

Colleges were chosen for the guide based on “Green Rating” scores (from 60 to 99) that the company tallied in summer 2014 for 861 colleges using data from its 2013-14 survey of school administrators. The survey asked them to report on their school’s sustainability-related policies, practices and programs. More than 25 data points were weighted in the assessment. Schools with Green Rating scores of 83 or higher made it into the guide.



## GIESE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS DEDICATED

The Richard F. and Sandra L. Giese Center for the Performing Arts was dedicated in style Saturday, February 21 during Mount Union’s Black Tie Gala event.

During the event, guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, toured the brand new facility and were entertained by a performance by Direct From Vegas The Rat Pack,® a tribute to Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.

The Gieses expressed appreciation for those supporting the visual and performing arts programs at Mount Union and for the honor bestowed upon them when the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the performing arts center for them.

“We hope this facility will offer new opportunities for our students, faculty and guests to tell their stories,” Sandra said. “We also hope this facility will provide opportunities for the Alliance and surrounding communities.”

The Year of the Arts came in the form of a yearlong celebration that began in January, featuring a number of special performances including nationally known groups. The event lineup for the year is being planned by the University’s Year of the Arts committee with representatives of the departments of Art, Music and Theatre, along with several others on campus.

In addition to special guest performances, the Year of the Arts has featured a full repertoire of music and theatre student performances in the new facility, as well as gallery shows by student and professional artists. In addition, a number of the 2015 lectures are being dedicated to the arts.

Upcoming Year of the Arts events include Shakespeare at the Castle, which will present “Taming of the Shrew” July 23-26 and the annual ArtFest on September 19. For an updated event calendar, visit [mountunion.edu/year-of-the-arts](http://mountunion.edu/year-of-the-arts).

## 2015 COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATED

More than 480 graduate and undergraduate students participated in Mount Union's 169th Commencement Ceremony held Saturday, May 9 in the Peterson Field House.

This year's Commencement speaker was renowned tenor Eduardo Valdes '83, principal artist at the Metropolitan Opera Center in New York City.

Valdes, a solo principal artist, is on the roster of the Metropolitan Opera and is a voice teacher and voice advisor. He is a faculty member for The Bel Canto Institute's summer program in Florence, Italy and Canto de las Americas, a workshop for aspiring artists in the vocal arts in New York City.

Valdes majored in music education at Mount Union. After graduation, he attended the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University, where he earned a Master of Music degree. He participated in the Israel Vocal Arts Institute (IVAI) and was a member of the Juilliard Opera Center. Valdes has sung in opera houses throughout the United States, South and Central America and Europe.

During his speech, Valdes encouraged recent graduates to do everything whole-heartedly with love, conviction and passion, because the simplest of jobs done well will make people take notice. He explained that his journey to Mount Union began in Puerto Rico when he participated in a choir that hosted the Mount Union Concert Choir on a tour. A pre-med student at the time, the experience with the Mount Union choir caused him to change his focus and study music.

Valdes discussed how he started out as a percussionist at Mount Union but knew that singing was his passion. Though some people told him he was reaching too high and his dreams would never come true, others nurtured his ideas and dreams and encouraged him to apply for graduate programs in voice. He applied to various schools and was rejected by several, including The Juilliard School of Music.

However, about eight years later when he was singing with the Israel Vocal Artists Institute in Tel Aviv, he got a call from Juilliard wanting him to audition for the Juilliard Opera Center. "After my first aria, I heard Frank Corsaro, the stage director of the opera center, shouting into the room, "That is what I am looking for!" Valdes recalls.

During a concert with The Juilliard Opera Center, the artistic directors from the Metropolitan Opera were in the audience. A week later, Valdes received an invitation from the Metropolitan Opera to sing his first audition there.

"Anything is possible if you understand that some doors that close in front of you were not meant for you to walk through, and those that are opening are part of a master plan that the universe has in store for you and you alone," Valdes said. "So



always listen, because the signs are there. Sometimes a rejection is just a way for the universe to guide you to the right place, the place where you need to be."



During the Commencement ceremony, Valdes was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, as were Dr. Richard and Sandra Giese and board chair Randall C. Hunt '75. Dr. Harold Kolenbrander, president emeritus, presented the Gieses with their degrees.

Kolenbrander cited a number of accomplishments achieved during the Gieses' 10-year tenure that have further propelled the University and benefited the Alliance community.

"Since their return to campus in 2005, Mount Union has celebrated record enrollment, added strategic undergraduate majors, launched its first graduate programs in nearly a century, overhauled the general education curriculum, enhanced diversity and changed the designation of the institution from college to university," Kolenbrander said.

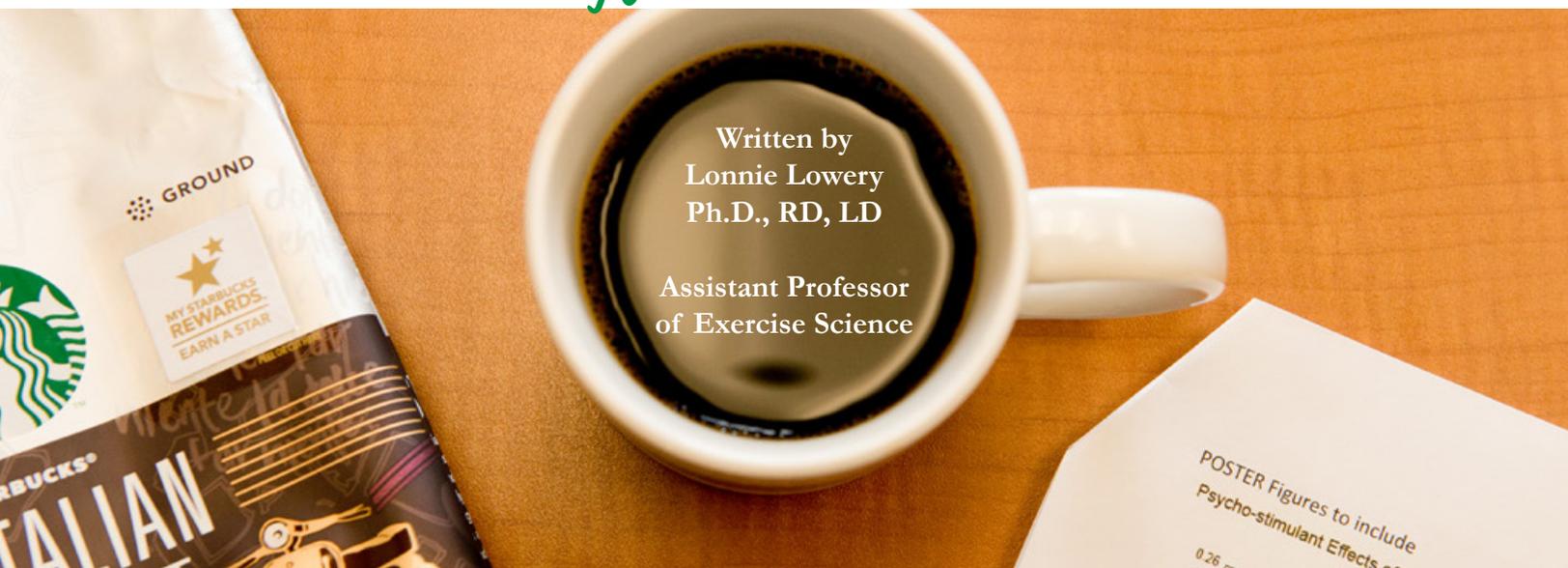
Dr. Ray Posey, associate academic dean and professor in residence of management and finance, presented Hunt with an honorary degree during the Commencement festivities. Hunt has served as chair of the Board of Trustees since 2010 and has been on the board since 1995. He serves as director at the law firm of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A.

"His tireless work on the Board of Trustees for the past 10 years and his collaborative efforts for the betterment of life for all Alliance residents, is more than commendable," Posey said.



For more information, visit [mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).

# Research on Coffee and Exercise:



Written by  
Lonnie Lowery  
Ph.D., RD, LD

Assistant Professor  
of Exercise Science

## Grounds for Better Results?

### Popularity – And yet Controversy

Caffeinated drinks like coffee and tea are the most popular beverages on Earth. Indeed, college campuses around the globe are good examples of communities that share a passion for such blends. Moreover, recent trends toward specialty coffees and energy drinks add to the fervor. Yet, there are those who consider coffee a vice. When overused, its caffeine content can cause anxiety, sleeplessness and other maladies. But is there more to the picture?

### Coffee: Not Just a Vehicle for Caffeine

Coffee isn't just big business, it's becoming "big science." Researchers know there are hundreds of compounds in coffee that have health effects. Caffeine is just one of many. Interestingly, many of these substances benefit our health. Recent research suggests reduced risk of oral cancer, less type II diabetes, lower odds of developing Parkinson's disease and benefits for other common conditions. In the lab at Mount Union, we've been focusing on neuromuscular function. Phytochemicals in coffee – beyond just the caffeine – appear to augment the nervous system and muscle tissue itself.

### Strong Coffee = Strong Muscles?

Laborers and athletes are both asked to exhibit muscular force and power. Knowing how much coffee affects these qualities could lead to safe enhancements. It is, after all, the goal of many sports nutritionists to find safe dietary approaches to better performance. Whereas most coffee-exercise research in the past has focused on its fatigue fighting effects, we have taken a different track. We've all heard stories of adrenaline-enhanced moms pulling a car off of a trapped child. We collect data along those lines. By studying whether a couple cups of instant coffee increases spinal reflexes and muscle explosiveness – even in a single repetition – we are helping to clarify interactions that could aid an exerciser beyond just a big competition. They could lead to what's called a "super-training effect," whereby the athlete routinely moves with greater acceleration than he/she usually could. This could lead to adaptations in which he/she actually becomes a more explosive, powerful individual.

### Every Answer Leads to Three More Questions

I was recently asked when our faculty-student research on coffee in exercise science would end. I was taken aback. End? That sounds boring! Faculty who develop lines of inquiry – a

research agenda – are never done. For example, once we found a roughly 10% enhancement in bench press performance, we looked at the squat. Strangely, the effect was much less. Then, we were curious about how men and women differed in response to the Via (Starbucks) instant coffee. Additionally, we had to know if habitual users garnered blunted effects. And what about that animal data on coffee, dopamine and the stretch reflex?

### *Discoveries at Mount Union*

I am sometimes jealous of astronomers discovering new planets or biology and geology professors doing field work in some exotic locale. By contrast, our “unglamorous” data collection in the McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex usually just leads to a “wall of numbers” in a Statistica spreadsheet that we analyze on the screen at the front of an empty classroom after hours. Still, for the nerdy, it’s a thrill. So what have we discovered?

- A serving of Via instant coffee contains roughly 2.5 times the caffeine of regular instant coffee (still a very safe dose according to the literature).
- Upper body exercise such as the bench press gains a 9-12% boost from two cups of Via instant coffee in variables like power output and bar velocity.
- Lower body exercise, as in the squat, may only get a 3-4% boost from the same amount of coffee.
- Males and females are augmented similarly by two cups of coffee.
- Habituation from regular use only slightly blunts the performance-enhancing or “ergogenic” effect of coffee.
- There is not a linear, “more is better” correlation between the psychological sensation of alertness and actual motor performance after drinking coffee.
- Some research suggests an incredible 50% enhancement of specific muscle function tests when coffee is consumed in the right amount at the right time... but that’s a discovery for 2016!

Keep in mind, we are hugely respectful of human subject regulations. We also do an extensive literature review on safety and efficacy before forming a new question or hypothesis, let alone collecting any data. It’s all part of the scientific method, which is not a body of knowledge, per se, but rather a process. This process has already led to some globe-trotting as we share Mount Union’s coffee discoveries at international meetings. I take pride knowing our undergrads are standing there among doctoral students at some of these large conferences. The juniors and seniors are now helping to show our sophomores the ropes. It’s this very transdisciplinary, transgenerational process that makes a simple coffee researcher feel like a humble part of a much larger enterprise.

So whether you’re fascinated by the popularity of sports nutrition and coffee science or you’re in the camp of conservatives who feel coffee is a vice, I hope this little treatise has awakened you to the stimulating world of coffee research!

“Coffee isn’t just big business,  
it’s becoming *‘big science.’*”

Researchers know there are  
hundreds of compounds in  
coffee that have health effects.  
*Caffeine is just one of many.*”





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# The Giese Years

“Dr. Giese’s leadership has been inspiring, his vision without equal, all wrapped in the blanket of humility. He has left a remarkable legacy behind, one which will remain with Mount Union for years to come. Dick, you and Sandy are leaving Mount Union better than you found it, and that alone will remain a lasting tribute to your leadership. Remember us fondly and may the years that lie ahead be filled with laughter, happiness and even more dreams achieved.”

**Lee Ann (Johnson '83) Thorn**

Executive Director of Atrium  
OB/GYN, Inc. and The Spa at Atrium  
Member of the Mount Union Board of Trustees

Dr. Richard F. and Mrs. Sandra L. Giese have led with vision at the University of Mount Union, benefiting the Mount Union and Alliance communities by further advancing an already-strong institution during their 10-year tenure at the helm.

Since their return to campus in 2005, Mount Union has celebrated record enrollment, invested significantly in the development of the campus, added strategic undergraduate majors, launched its first graduate programs in nearly a century, overhauled the general education curriculum, enhanced diversity and changed the designation of the institution from college to university.

Throughout the past decade, the Gieses’ work at Mount Union has been incredible, and the progress they have brought to the University has been nothing less than exceptional. The sheer number of accomplishments achieved during their tenure speaks volumes about their impact on campus, and it would require hundreds of pages to accurately communicate all that has resulted during their years at Mount Union. The following provides some highlights of the past decade – the 10 greatest accomplishments of the past 10 years. These milestones will surely go down in the books as some of the most significant in the University’s rich and storied history.

# GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST DECADE



## UNIVERSITY TRANSITION

After careful review of data and thoughtful consideration and discussion, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to change the designation of the institution from “college” to “university.” August 1, 2010 marked the official change to the University of Mount Union and the launch of a rebranding effort to further propel visibility and reputation.

The decision followed a research effort about current trends and perceptions, and alumni, donors, faculty, staff and current students provided critical feedback. The extraordinary amount of change at Mount Union served as a catalyst for the decision, as the institution has progressed significantly over the past decade.

Although the Board’s decision resulted in a designation change, Mount Union’s fundamental educational philosophy has remained the same. The institution continues to focus on attracting quality students and faculty, providing a sense of community and offering a well-rounded education combined with the practical experience critical to career success.



## A CULTURE OF PLANNING

With the Gieses came a renewed focus on planning. In 2010, the University community engaged in a strategic planning process that resulted in *Advancing Excellence – A Strategic Plan for the University of Mount Union*. The five-year plan presented six strategic initiatives related to the curriculum, campus engagement, enrollment, management of resources, diversity and visibility and reputation. Through the work of the entire campus community, much has been accomplished along the way.

The challenges in higher education, however, called for longer-range planning as well. In early 2011, the Quality and Efficiency Task Force was established to examine such challenges. The resulting recommendations included conducting a reconciliation of resources to align them with demand and determine overall cost effectiveness. Thus, the University partnered with Stevens Strategy to carry out a Program Resource and Optimization (PRO) process including an institutional program analysis and review of the academic and non-academic revenue and cost centers.

“People from other universities have commented to me about how proactive Mount Union has been by adding programs and facilities that will attract quality students. Dick oversaw and coordinated the University-wide teamwork that was needed in order to enhance Mount Union’s strengths.”

**Dr. James Thoma**

Professor of Human Performance and Sport Business



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

Six decades of balanced financial operations – in today’s world, few can make such a claim. Fortunately, as a result of prudent fiscal management, the generosity of alumni and friends and the diligence of the entire campus community, Mount Union can tout this exceptional accomplishment. The University has achieved 60 years of balanced financial operations and is on track to make it 61 at the close of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year.

“Dr. Giese truly believes in the tradition of good fiscal management and was determined to extend the University’s rich history of financial stability. He also led the charge to raise significant funds to support our expansion initiatives. It was a pleasure to work with him for the last decade, and I sincerely thank him for his strong leadership.”

**Patrick Heddleston**

Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer

In addition to completing a rolling five-year financial plan, successful fundraising efforts have been instrumental to Mount Union’s fiscal acumen. The successful completion of two campaigns – Drive for Distinction, which raised \$82 million a year ahead of schedule, and a \$25 million campaign for the health and medical sciences building and performing arts center – has enabled the growth of Mount Union’s campus. The institution has also celebrated three consecutive years of surpassing the \$10 million level in gifts and pledges and achieved a record-high endowment of \$145.7 million in 2014.

## NEW OR RENOVATED FACILITIES

Over the course of the past 10 years, the University has invested more than \$100 million in its campus and buildings. New or renovated facilities include the following.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Hoover-Price Campus Center Renovations  |  Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity                                |
|  Brown Village                           |  Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House                        |
|  Hartshorn Townhouses                    |  Mount Union Stadium Renovations                         |
|  Sigma Nu Fraternity                     |  Mount Union Stadium Plaza                               |
|  McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex |  Gallaher Hall   |
|  Gartner Welcome Center                  |  Kolenbrander-Harter Information Center Learning Commons |
|  Engineering and Business Building       |  Plaza at College and Miller                             |
|  Academic Mall                           |  Giese Center for the Performing Arts                    |
|  Union Avenue Townhouses                 |   |



## INVESTMENT IN CAMPUS

As a result of Mount Union’s financial stability and fundraising success, approximately \$108 million has been invested in the campus under the Gieses’ leadership, including the addition of apartment-style housing, academic buildings, athletic and recreation facilities and outdoor gathering spaces. In addition, ownership of a number of interior roadways was transferred to the University, and two phases of street closures have followed.

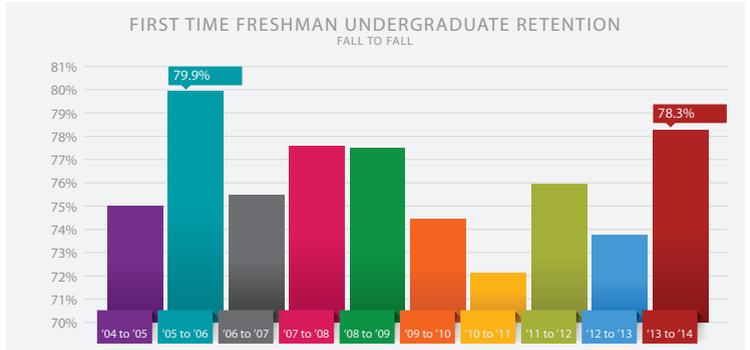
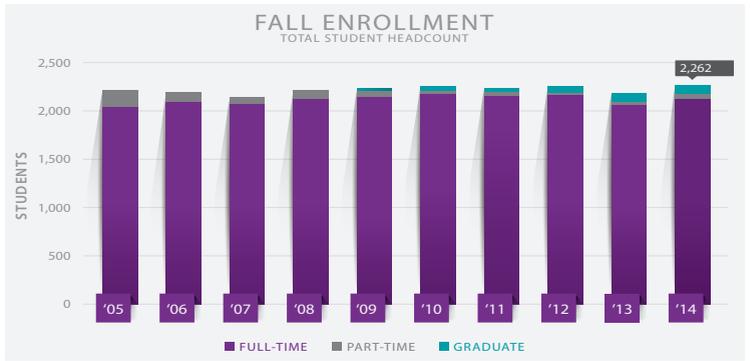
All the while, the Gieses ushered in a new era of sustainable leadership. The Sustainability Management Advisory Council was established, and Sandra has served as a member since its inception. As a result, the University has seen a significant reduction in energy costs, earned silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the Gartner Welcome Center, been recognized in the Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges and earned TREE Campus USA recognition. The institution also became the first in Ohio to receive a Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) rating.



## ENROLLMENT STABILIZATION

The higher education landscape of the past few years has been challenging at best, with particular concern for declining demographics in the state of Ohio resulting in fewer students graduating from high school, thus fewer students seeking higher education opportunities. During the Gieses' tenure, a number of steps were taken to counter such challenges, and despite the difficult environment, enrollment at Mount Union has remained stable.

In fact, the University welcomed record-breaking freshman classes to campus in 2007, 2008 and 2012, and announced a



record full-time enrollment of 2,166 students and an overall enrollment of 2,255 in fall 2010. In addition, a campus-wide plan resulted in improved retention rates, achieving the highest freshman to sophomore retention rate in nearly a decade at 78.3%.



## ADDITION OF PROGRAMS

The strategic addition of new programs greatly contributed to the stabilization of enrollment during the Giese years. New undergraduate majors in civil engineering, mechanical engineering and nursing as well as graduate programs in physician assistant studies and educational leadership have attracted students to campus who may not have otherwise considered Mount Union an option – 248 students to be exact.

Although there is no way to definitively predict what may have happened, potentially, the University could have faced a severe enrollment decline if not for the addition of these new programs. Assuming these 248 students would have not come to Mount Union without the option to pursue these new offerings, the impact to the bottom line would have been significant, with lost revenue approaching \$5 million.



## OVERHAUL OF THE CURRICULUM

With a general education curriculum that hadn't been revised in nearly three decades, the Mount Union faculty developed and launched the Integrative Core – a collection of foundational courses that ensures a well-rounded educational experience. Members of the Class of 2016 were the first to benefit from this innovative new program that allows students to explore a variety of topics and ideas through four levels that build upon skills learned previously.

Alongside this general education overhaul was a complete restructuring of the academic curriculum resulting from the common course being transitioned from three to four credits. This flexible curriculum allows faculty members to dive more deeply into course material and students to participate in service-learning, field trips, lectures and hands-on projects.



## INCREASED DIVERSITY

The strides Mount Union has made with regard to diversity during the Gieses' tenure have been significant, and the campus community is a more welcoming and enlightened one for it. A comprehensive diversity plan and *Advancing Excellence* both called for an increase in the number of diverse students, and the institution has surpassed its initial goal with 17% of the student body being American minority and international students. In addition, the diversity of the faculty has increased with 39% women, 10% American minority and 5% international faculty.

In addition to enhancing diversity on campus, the University continues to offer domestic students the opportunity to study abroad as a means of expanding their horizons.

Diversity programming has been enhanced as well, including the establishment of two new diversity-related organizations - HOLA (Hispanic Organization for Latin Americans) and STAND (See the Ability Not Disability). These organizations complement existing programs and services offered by the Black Student Union, Association of International Students, Association of Women Students and the Gay Straight Alliance.



## TIES WITH THE COMMUNITY

Mount Union's mission is to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work and responsible citizenship, a credo that the Gieses have wholeheartedly embraced. They have truly "walked the walk," living out this mission and leading by example. For their works in the community, the Gieses were recognized as Alliance's Citizens of the Year in 2014.

In addition to serving on numerous boards and planning groups, the Gieses have led the charge to form a true partnership with the city. They have promoted efforts that resulted in Mount Union's involvement in city-wide sustainability work, cleanup of the Glamorgan Castle lakes, enhancement of the Union Avenue corridor, development of retail space on the perimeter of campus and the continued success of One Book, One Community.

This past year, in an effort to battle "brain drain" in the area, the Gieses announced a new scholarship initiative, *Investment Alliance*. Initiated in cooperation with the Alliance City Schools, the scholarship program offers full-tuition scholarships to high-caliber Alliance High School graduates.

"Dick and Sandy, your commitment to Mount Union and the entire Alliance community is greatly appreciated. You both were incredibly involved in the Alliance community from the first day you were here. Your contributions will be missed by numerous organizations."

**Mark Locke**

President of the Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce

"I would like to thank Dick and Sandy for their involvement in and support of One Book, One Community, which has helped to enrich the Alliance and Mount Union communities through a variety of book selections and programming."

**Cheryl Paine**

Documents Librarian

"We are honored to wish Dr. and Mrs. Giese the very best as they enter this exciting new phase of their lives and thank them for leaving their indelible imprint on Alliance and Stark County."

**William Shivers**

President of the Greater Akron Region of Huntington Bank

"On behalf of the students, staff and Board of Education of Alliance City Schools, we would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. Giese for everything they do to support high-quality public education in the community. We wish them well as they enter the next phase of their lives."

**Jeff Talbert**

Superintendent of Alliance City Schools



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

During the Giese years, Mount Union further solidified its position as an exceptional investment, offering an experience recognized for its combination of benefit and value. In fact, the percentage of students who succeed immediately following graduation is impressive. Among members of the 2014 graduating class, 99% of those self reporting had started a degree-required career or were accepted to graduate school, all in an average of 38 days after graduation. What's even more impres-

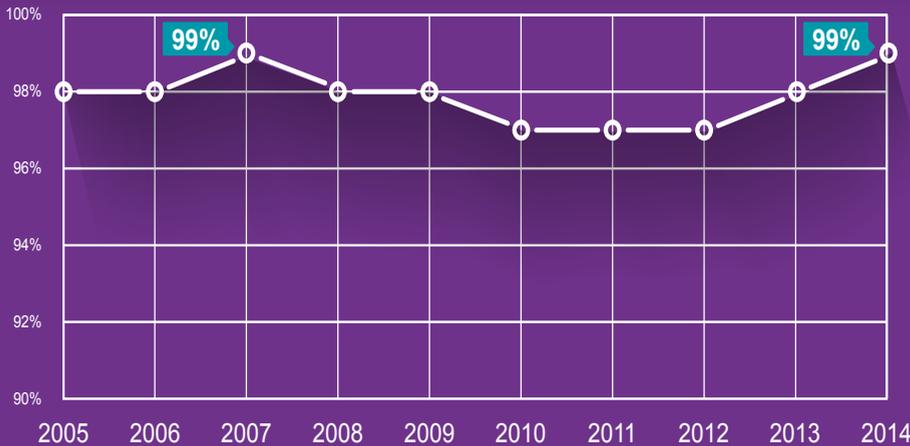
sive is that Mount Union has a significant track record in this regard. Over the course of the past decade, graduates have self-reported exceptional success in their searches for careers and graduate school acceptance, with an average success rate of 97.8% for the graduating classes of 2005 through 2014.

The success and satisfaction of students, alumni and parents clearly illustrates that the University is making good on its promise to provide a personal, practical and pertinent education. Survey results indicate that current students' level of satisfaction with Mount Union is significantly better than national averages for other four-year private institutions, and 95% of alumni are pleased with their Mount Union educations as well. In addition, an overwhelming majority – 93% of parents and 91% of alumni – say a Mount Union education is worth the investment.

And others agree. For 24 consecutive years, Mount Union has been recognized as a top university by U.S. News & World Report. In addition, the University also has been recently cited by Forbes and Washington Monthly in addition to garnering other national recognitions.

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS RATE

SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION



## A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

Over the past decade, graduates have self-reported exceptional success in their searches for degree required careers or graduate schools, with an average success rate of 97.8% for the graduating classes of 2005 through 2014.

For more information on student success, visit [mountunion.edu/first-destination-report](http://mountunion.edu/first-destination-report)



### NATIONAL RECOGNITIONS

The University is continually cited as a best college. During the Giese years, the following national rankings bodies included Mount Union in their listings. For additional information on national recognitions, visit [mountunion.edu/universities-in-ohio-recognitions](http://mountunion.edu/universities-in-ohio-recognitions).

U.S. News and World Report

Forbes

Washington Monthly

Princeton Review's Guide  
to Green Colleges

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment  
and Rating System (STARS)

Tree Campus USA

President's Higher Education  
Community Service Honor Roll

Learfield Sports Directors Cup  
NCAA Division III Standings



"Dick and Sandy, we wouldn't know where to begin to thank you for all the good you have brought to our community over the past several years. Thank you for your continuous selfless giving and for doing it all with such class."

**Dr. Richard '50 and Dorothy (Werstler '49) McPherson**  
Retired Surgeon/Volunteer

"The University of Mount Union has been fortunate to have Dick and Sandy Giese as its presidential team for the last 10 years. They shared a great vision, provided true leadership and inspired all of us to accomplish things that none of us dared to dream about. Thank you for all that you have done for Mount Union, and thank you for the tremendous guidance and support you provided us during this amazing decade-long ride!"

**Gregory L. King '89**  
Vice President for Advancement



"Good luck in your future endeavors and thank you for everything during these last four years. It's been a wild ride! Have fun with the grandkids!"

**Jacob Ward '15**  
Senior Class President

"One of the hallmarks of Mount Union is that this is a friendly campus. Dick Giese has always personified that friendliness."

**Dr. Michael Zwilling**  
Professor of Mathematics



"Thank you, Dick and Sandy, for 10 years of outstanding vision and leadership at the University of Mount Union. It has been fun to watch the University grow in so many ways under your direction. Best wishes to both of you in the next phase of your lives."

**E. Dominic Capers '72**  
Defensive Coordinator of the Green Bay Packers



“Dr. Giese’s contribution to our University and its students has been monumental. His academic and business vision and leadership have been instrumental in guiding and stabilizing Mount Union through the current turbulent waters of higher education. His presidency will be forever remembered in the history of the University for his vision, his innovation and his commitment to its students and their careers. Dick and Sandy have been strong supporters of and advocates for Alliance as well. They have certainly left their mark on the Carnation City.”

**Randall C. Hunt '75**

Director of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths and Dougherty  
Chair of the Mount Union Board of Trustees



“I will always remember being greeted with a bright smile and hug from both Dr. and Mrs. Giese when I saw them at their house. They will certainly be missed!”

**Dana Goehring '16**



“I’ve really enjoyed getting to know and work with Dr. and Mrs. Giese. I admire the way they genuinely work with all the stakeholders of Mount Union, from faculty to students to the community, and listen and care about everyone. I wish them the best in their future. Once a Raider, always a Raider!”

**Emma Phillip '15**

Student Senate President



“It has been a wonderful decade of progress at the University. Dick, your abilities to harness the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of a wide variety of persons – your administrative staff, the faculty, the trustees and alumni and friends of Mount Union – has resulted in wonderfully exciting progress. I salute you and your accomplishments with unbridled enthusiasm! Sandy, your contributions to all of the aforementioned things are not unnoticed. I know how closely and how well the two of you worked to formulate and implement the ideas that led to those successes.”

**Dr. Harold M. Kolenbrander**  
President Emeritus

“I am honored to have worked closely with Dick and Sandy Giese for 12 years and to call them both friends. The Gieses’ integrity, dedication, inventiveness and forward thinking has shaped Mount Union for a strong and sustainable future. Personally, I admire their commitment to hard work around aggressive goals while enjoying the ride of that work together as a community.”

**Dr. Patricia Draves**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
and Dean of the University





"The Giese's contributions to the University are immeasurable. They have kept the University relevant and modern while, at the same time, keeping it a family. I know that my involvement in the University and the Board of Trustees is directly related to what I saw happening under Dick's direction. Thank you both for all that you have done. All my best wishes for your next chapter."

**Nancy Hill '79**

President and CEO of the 4A's  
Member of the Mount Union Board of Trustees

"Dick and Sandy, Mount Union and the community will miss your commitment to excellence in all of your endeavors."

**Clifford Shields '43**

Retired Executive of  
Standard Oil Company  
Chairman Emeritus of the  
Mount Union Board of Trustees

"I have been blessed to have worked with Dick and Sandy Giese for the past eight years! They both have a real passion for Mount Union and getting to know our students. I wish them both the best in the next phase of their lives."

**John Frazier**

Vice President for Student Affairs  
and Dean of Students



"Thank you both for your leadership and commitment to our University. We wish you the best in your future endeavors."

**Mike Fuline**

Head Men's Basketball Coach



"Sandy and Dick, congratulations on a fantastic career in higher education. We appreciate everything you have done for the Mount Union community. Buildings change landscapes, people changes lives. You have done both at Mount Union. All the best on the next journey of your lives."

**Ed Warinner '84**

Offensive Coordinator, The Ohio State University



Read more about the Giese years  
at [mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).

“The reason that Dick and Sandy are so well respected and admired in Alliance is that they immersed themselves in the community and believed wholeheartedly in the ‘town and gown.’ A strong Mount Union makes Alliance better and a stronger city benefits Mount Union.”

**Gerard Mastroianni**

President of Alliance Ventures

Member of the Mount Union Board of Trustees



“It is extremely rare when you find a couple that offers a unique blend of awesome skills and commitment and professionalism in how they perform their core job, and then you can see that same commitment and support in their volunteer job that they perform. This is exactly what the Alliance community got to see firsthand in the 10-plus years that we saw the Gieses in action.”

**Scott Robertson**

President of Robertson Heating Supply



“Dr. and Mrs. Giese, I join so many others in thanking both of you for such a ‘brilliant second tour of duty.’ Because of you, the community is in a much better place, and our students and parents are the real winners.”

**Sylvester Green '64**

Retired National Chairman/Consultant

of Green Rolle Consulting LLC

Trustee Emeritus of the Mount Union Board of Trustees

“Alliance has been blessed to have the Gieses contribute their time and talent to our fair city. We live in a better place because of their valued years of service and contributions. Although I feel sad to see them leave, I also feel happiness knowing that their influence will continue to have a positive impact on all of us in the years ahead.”

**Pat (Winner '72) Stone**

Director of Rodman Public Library



“We will certainly miss Dick and Sandy Giese. I can’t imagine Mount Union without them. They are pillars of our University and community and, over the last 30 years, have had such a positive impact on both. We wish them only the best as they transition into their next stage of life. Thank you, Dick and Sandy, for your dedication and service. We are ever so grateful.”

**Allen Green '77**

President of H-P Products, Inc.

Vice Chair of the Mount Union Board of Trustees

“Tireless and articulate advocates for Mount Union and Alliance, Dick and Sandy have left a legacy of exceptional work and good will. There is a hole in the heart of this community as we say goodbye to the Gieses, and we are forever grateful for their vision and leadership.”

**Suzan Goris**

Co-Owner of Goris Properties, LLC

Member of the Mount Union Board of Trustees



# In Their Own Words...

## A Q & A WITH THE GIESES

 Read more about the Giese years at [mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).

### WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST ABOUT MOUNT UNION?

**Richard Giese (RG)** – One thing that’s really neat about being at a college is that you have a fresh start every year. New students, new faculty, new opportunities, new challenges – that’s what is really special about higher education in general. We will miss the exhilaration that comes each fall at Mount Union.

**Sandra Giese (SG)** – At the same time, we’ll also miss the comfort that comes with continuity – the traditions, the alumni, the annual calendar of events. There are so many things that we have looked forward to each and every year.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY?

**RG** – I really enjoy Commencement each year, which in my mind is the culmination of the work of everyone on campus. It’s a pleasure to watch our students walk across the stage to receive the degrees for which they have worked so

hard and to think about what each and every one of them will do to contribute to a better world.

**SG** – I like Commencement as well because it’s truly a happy time for all involved. Our students are happy and eager to thank the faculty members for their support and guidance. Our faculty members are proud to see these students take the next steps in their lives and meet the families of those who have sat within their classrooms. The families of our graduates are thrilled to commemorate their students’ successes. It’s also a time for students to celebrate with their classmates. Although there is a bit of sadness as they bid good friends farewell, they are always excited for the future.

**RG** – It is so wonderful to witness the growth they have experienced since first coming to our home for the new student picnic as freshmen – to see how they have evolved as undergraduates into productive young adults.

**SG** – And now we have the wonderful addition of graduate students to our Commencement ceremony, which adds another dimension to the celebration. It’s truly a great day on our campus each year.

### WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST ABOUT THE ALLIANCE COMMUNITY?

**SG** – Over the years, I have really appreciated Alliance’s commitment to education and willingness to partner with the University to carry out some very important education-related initiatives. The entire city – school district and beyond – is dedicated to improving itself. Alliance is full of great people, great organizations and great intentions for the future, and we’re going to miss all of that.

**RG** – I will particularly miss the “can-do” attitude of the business community. There’s not great wealth in general in Alliance, but there is tremendous commitment and loyalty to the town and to making improvements. The city’s current “Alliance: Make it Yours” campaign is a great example of the city’s momentum. I

had the privilege of serving as the president of the Alliance Area Development Foundation during the initial phases of the campaign and had the opportunity to see the commitment to the city firsthand. There is a great partnership here between private business, the Chamber of Commerce, the city and Mount Union, and because of the collective work of these groups, I believe there are more great things to come for Alliance.

### WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT YOUR TIME AT MOUNT UNION?

**SG** – I have always enjoyed the things we do with students, whether it's going to plays, athletic events, debates or SCHOLAR Day or having students come to our house for events. We also greatly enjoy interacting with students as we walk across campus or getting to know them better in our travels.

**RG** – It keeps me young. Nobody ages at Mount Union because our students are always students, and their youthful energy is contagious. I think working in the higher education environment keeps you on your toes because it demands a more modern way of thinking. You have to stay in tune with the changing times. It's fun, and the liveliness and enthusiasm rubs off, even as you get older.

### AMONG THE THINGS THAT OCCURRED DURING YOUR TIME ON CAMPUS, OF WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD?

**RG** – Compared to when we first arrived at Mount Union in 1978, Mount Union has doubled in size and strengthened itself financially and academically. Also, during our lengthy tenure here, we've been able to be on campus with probably more than half of our alumni given the number of students we've seen matriculate and graduate from the institution. We really feel as if we have experienced some great history at Mount Union.

**SG** – I'm particularly happy about the success of our academic programs and our athletic programs. They are all doing

so well. I'm also very excited about the new Investment Alliance program, which offers full-tuition scholarships to the top 15 students of each Alliance High School graduating class. As I mentioned before, we've had great partnerships with the city, especially those related to our mutual commitment to education. These programs instill in students the confidence that they can do well in school and pursue higher education after graduation. After having been here 30 years, education remains very important to us, and we hope that the Investment Alliance program continues to benefit the community.

**RG** – We have also had a chance to really get to know some of the legends of Mount Union over four decades, and that's been very rewarding.

**SG** – We've gotten to know so many professors and others at the University. We are blessed to know the people of the Mount Union and Alliance communities.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY WILL REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

**RG** – All that I hope is that Mount Union is a better place upon our departure than it was when we arrived. And, please understand, we don't feel as if this improvement is a reflection on anything that we've done alone but what the collective University has been able to accomplish in the time that we've been here. There are great people at Mount Union, and they've worked as a team to make great things happen.

### WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR MOUNT UNION'S FUTURE?

**SG** – I hope that it continues to progress and be relevant in the higher education environment. I think it has an exciting future.

**RG** – I hope that Mount Union continues to find the blend of innovation and tradition that will be relevant for the next generations of students who come here. I also anticipate that the University

will continue to make a difference in the lives of students in the future just as it has for the past 169 years.

### WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

**SG** – We have some ideas, but we're not exactly sure what lies down the road. That's kind of exciting. We are usually pretty scheduled, but now we're looking forward to the unknown a bit. We will, however, be relocating to Virginia to live near our son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons. We are really looking forward to that.

**RG** – I am planning to do some work as a consultant for the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), but to what extent I am not yet certain.

**SG** – We do plan to travel and be active in our community.

**RG** – Undoubtedly, we will stay involved in education at some level.

### HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP YOUR TIME AT MOUNT UNION?

**SG** – When we first came here in 1978, we thought we would be here for a year or two. Our goal was to make our way back home to Chicago, and the opportunity at Mount Union got us one step closer geographically. We never imagined we'd spend more than 30 years here.

**RG** – For us, Mount has been our home for the majority of our adult lives. We have loved it here, and we will miss it dearly.

**SG** – We truly thank everyone – trustees, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students and parents – for the opportunity to serve the University community.

**RG** – What we have learned during our time here is that Mount Union is special. It needs to be celebrated, supported and handled with care in order to preserve all of the great things that have happened since 1846. Thousands of students have walked our campus, and there are thousands more who are yet to come.





# Proven Track Record

## PA Program Builds Strong Foundation at Mount Union

Dozens of successful graduates, impressive national exam passage results and strong connections to esteemed hospitals and physicians are just a few of the accomplishments the University of Mount Union's Physician Assistant (PA) Studies Program has achieved since its 2009 launch.

The University's Master of Science in PA program was the first graduate level program offering at Mount Union in nearly a century. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the PA program at Mount Union.

The program attracts students from throughout the state and country as well as Mount Union undergraduate students with a desire to pursue their education in the medical field. After earning an undergraduate degree in biology at Mount Union, Michelle Porter '13, M '15 didn't want to leave Mount Union to further her education.



“The faculty, staff and students are all so kind, helpful and incredible. I knew that these trends would continue in Mount Union’s graduate programs,” Porter said.

Betsy Ekey, who will take over as PA Studies program director August 1, noted that the one-on-one interaction with faculty members is often a determining factor for students choosing PA schools.

“Mount Union’s undergraduate tradition of allowing students to feel comfortable approaching professors for one-on-one assistance is also carried on in the PA program,” Ekey said.

### **CARING MISSION**

The mission of Mount Union’s PA program is to “educate knowledgeable, competent and compassionate physician assistants who provide patient care with professionalism and integrity.”

“Mount Union’s program doesn’t just focus on the medical aspects of patient care, but also emphasizes the importance of ethics, integrity and responsibility,” Jenny Carpenter M ’14 said of the program.

Students enrolled in the program fulfill this mission as they complete a 15-month didactic phase in the classroom and laboratory and then move on to 12 months of clinical rotations at area doctors’ offices, hospitals and clinics. Students

*“We consider Mount Union’s PA curriculum to be one of the best around because it focuses on patient-centered care, an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of healthcare access and needs and the importance of lifelong learning for the PA.”*

**Dr. Patricia Draves**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

complete clinical rotations in women’s health, general surgery, pediatrics, primary care, internal medicine, emergency medicine, behavioral medicine and family medicine.

The University has established partnerships with more than 200 locations including the Cleveland Clinic, Mercy Medical Center and the nearby Alliance Community Hospital, which provide hands-on training in a variety of settings.

## LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

In addition to classroom, laboratory and clinical learning opportunities, Mount Union PA students can also participate in various educational opportunities outside of the classroom. These include attending the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) National Conference and the National Medical Challenge Bowl, a competition where teams of three PA students face off by answering challenging medical questions on a variety of subjects.

“We consider Mount Union’s PA curriculum to be one of the best around because it focuses on patient-centered care, an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of healthcare access and needs and the importance of lifelong learning for the PA,” said Dr. Patricia Draves, vice president for Academic Affairs and Dean of the University. “In addition, through its mission, the program helps to meet the surrounding community’s need for qualified healthcare providers.”

## PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Mount Union PA graduates aren’t just talking about their successes in the program – they’re proving it as they pass the Physician Assistants National Certifying Exam (PANCE) and go on to obtain their first jobs in the medical field. The Class of 2014 had a 100% first-time passage rate, and previous classes have had high first-time passage rates as well – 95% in 2011, 96% in 2012 and 87% in 2013.

Ekey attributes the 100% passage rate to the implementation of an intense study program throughout the clinical year.

In addition, Mount Union students consistently score at or above the average compared to students across the nation on the PACKRAT exam, a 225-question examination that allows for student self-assessment and program evaluation.

## PA Graduate Spotlight: Ryan Adler, M '11, PA-C, ATC, CSCS



**Job Title:** PA, Digestive Disease Institute

*I work on the main campus of the Cleveland Clinic as a member of the gastroenterology and hepatology team. I provide day-to-day care for patients admitted to the GI service as well as perform consults within the hospital and Intensive Care Unit.*

### Why Mount Union

The reason I chose Mount Union was the personal interview process. I felt like the faculty and staff members were interested in who I was as a person and were committed to my growth and development in the journey of becoming a physician assistant.

### Asking for Help

One of the most helpful experiences in school was after a difficult exam that did not go as planned. I reached out to my classmates and faculty members to see what I could be doing differently. Afterward, I excelled on the exams and realized that it’s okay to ask for help!

### Connections with Patients

My favorite thing about my job is the connections that are made on a daily basis. To be able to help a patient is a challenging and rewarding feeling. I have been fortunate to work with great physician assistants and physicians.

## PA Graduate Spotlight: Olivia Myers '10, M '12



**Job Title:** PA, Dermatology

*I work under Dr. David Corallo’s supervision to diagnose and treat skin, hair and nail conditions and diseases; write prescriptions; perform biopsies; educate patients on diagnoses and prevent skin cancers through regular screenings and sun safety.*

### Mount Union Confidence

Mount Union’s program was new at the time I was applying to PA schools, and I had watched the program start from the ground up. But despite this newness, I was confident that Mount Union’s program had the potential to bring new and groundbreaking ideas to PA education. This “newness” also gave my classmates and me the ability to help mold and shape the future of the program as it continues to strengthen.

### Hands-on Experience

The most memorable hands-on experience was anatomy lab at the Cleveland Clinic. We also gained hands-on experience with clinical skills, learning how to suture, cast and perform exams.

### Favorite Part of My Job

I like working with people in my own community and being able to educate them on the prevention of skin disease.

Another way Mount Union PA students are measured is through evaluations from clinical rotations. For each student, Mount Union receives 10 evaluations – the majority of which are positive, according to Ekey.

“Mount Union students stand above the others in medical knowledge and professional behavior,” Ekey said.

In addition to passing the PANCE exam, Mount Union PA students are successfully finding jobs in the medical field throughout the United States. Upon completion of the program and passing the PANCE exam, PAs are able to work in hospitals, clinics, private practice offices, surgical settings, emergency rooms and federal prison health clinics.

“Our graduates have job offers prior to graduation and many have two or three offers before they’ve even graduated,” Ekey said.



## PA Graduate Spotlight: Jessica Klaus M'13



**Job Title:** PA Certified,  
Emergency Services

*I evaluate, monitor and treat patients with injuries and/or illnesses in an urgent care and emergency room setting. I also perform routine diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.*

### Hands-On Experience

I participated in 10 months of clinical rotations at Mount Union. This type of program is all about how much you are willing to put in or get out! They have a well-stocked clinical lab and mock surgical suite to practice on mannequins as well and several opportunities to practice with live patients in scenario-based situations.

### Quality of Education

Besides the gorgeous, quiet campus atmosphere, the countless amenities to students and the perfect setting of the University in Alliance, Ohio, I'd recommend Mount Union's PA program for the quality of education received. Mount Union's PAs are the most well prepared for clinical practice.

### Favorite Part of My Job

I like patient interaction and education. I enjoy solving problems and improving lives.



Read more about Mount Union PA grads at [mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).

## PA Graduate Spotlight: Charles Davis M'14



**Job Title:** PA, Family Practice and Sports Medicine; part-time Urgent Care

*I take care of patients of all ages in a rural healthcare setting in family practice and sports medicine and work part-time in an urgent care facility.*

### Hands-On Experience

Although the clinical Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) were stressful in PA school, nothing prepares you better than repetition and practice. Seeing patients (or prepping to see patients) such as in an OSCE really does provide self-confidence that you are able to translate book medicine to clinical medicine.

### Helpful Education

My Mount Union education prepared me for everything in my current job. Obviously, PA school is a stressful time and, at times, it's extremely difficult to see “the light at the end of the tunnel,” but overall I have felt very prepared. There is a large learning curve in the PA profession, but I must say, in comparison to nurse practitioners and physician assistants from other programs, I certainly felt confident in my education and at least equal in comparison.

### Favorite Part of My Job

I am able to care for others on a daily basis and am able to truly touch someone's life.



*AT LEFT: PA student Allison Gansel receives her white coat from PA faculty member Kelly Dallas at the White Coat Ceremony held last July.*

*ABOVE: Mount Union PA students attended the White Coat ceremony in July, marking the transition of 30 students from classroom learning to the clinical phase of their physician assistant studies graduate education.*

## **BETSY EKEY NAMED PA PROGRAM DIRECTOR**



Betsy Ekey, assistant professor of physician assistant studies and academic coordinator, will assume the role of program director beginning August 1, 2015 and was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure. Ekey has been with the program since it started in 2009 and has played an integral role in its development and successes throughout the past six years.

Ekey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in medical science and a Master of Science degree in physician assistant studies, both from Alderson-Broadus College. Prior to joining the Mount Union faculty, she was a physician assistant at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Ekey is known for teaching her students about diseases from “A to Z,” enabling them to be knowledgeable healthcare providers. She also prepares students with medical decision-making and problem-solving skills that are critical in the clinical healthcare setting. She is active nationally in service to the Physician Assistant Education Association.

In her new role, Ekey hopes to oversee the inclusion of problem-based learning into the curriculum and help students apply textbook knowledge to clinical scenarios.

“I look forward to expanding and growing the clinical opportunities for our students,” she said. “I’m excited and honored to have the opportunity to lead the program into the future.”

INSPIRING  
STORIES

powered  
by

**PASSION**

by Jaime Eyssen '16

## Mandy Wise '15

North Canton, Ohio

Member of the Women's Tennis Team, Alpha Phi Omega, Exercise Science Club and Alpha Lambda Delta  
B.S., Exercise Science, University of Mount Union

I stepped onto campus,  
and that was the end of it.  
I loved the **family feel** that  
Mount had to offer.

- Mandy Wise '15

**If there is one thing** that Mount Union exercise science major Mandy Wise '15 of Canton, Ohio has, it's passion toward her education and future career.

Wise's passionate journey at Mount Union began while on a visit with the tennis coach. From that moment on, she was certain that Mount Union was the place for her.

"I stepped onto campus, and that was the end of it," Wise said. "I loved the family feel that Mount had to offer."

Although she was sure that Mount Union was the perfect fit, as a freshman, Wise was unsure of what she wanted to major in. However, after taking an introductory course and meeting some of the faculty, she soon fell in love with the field of exercise science.

"I knew I wanted to work in the medical field and with children who have special needs," Wise said. "So I took two of my passions and infused them together."

Wise took her newfound passion for exercise science and wasted no time jumping into the field. During her time at Mount Union, she took advantage of as many opportunities as possible to help her gain experience for her future. Wise shadowed in pediatrics, hand therapy and general rehabilitation facilities. She also volunteered in the therapy department of the Alliance Community Hospital to gain exposure to the therapy environment. In addition, Wise spent two semesters in the lab as a research assistant, helping faculty members collect data and working with laboratory equipment.

"You can read about research all you want, but until you collect the data yourself, you are not going to learn anything," Wise said. "Things go wrong in the lab or people don't show up, those are things you won't learn until you experience them."

One of Wise's favorite things about exercise science at Mount Union is the department's faculty and staff. To Wise, they

serve as mentors who offer guidance whether she has questions about academics, future plans or life in general.

"They always have an open door policy," Wise said. "They care about you as a student – you're not just a number."

Wise matches her passion for academics with her passion on the courts as a member of the women's tennis team. She credits her involvement in athletics and other extracurricular activities, including the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, Exercise Science Club and Alpha Lambda Delta, with helping her become more well-rounded as a student.

"I love exercise science but I also want to see things through other perspectives," she said. "Through different clubs, I was able to meet different people with different ideas and collaborate to better Mount Union."

While it may seem like she maintained a jam-packed schedule while on campus, Wise loved keeping busy and staying involved.

"Time management skills were huge," Wise stated. "My planner was my life. I wrote down absolutely everything, whether that be homework, tennis matches or meetings. It kept me on track."

As for her future plans, Wise plans to attend graduate school at The Ohio State University where she is enrolled in its occupational therapy program. From there, she plans to do therapy work within a school system or at a rehabilitation facility.

"My major has definitely set me up for success in graduate school and after that, not just in the classroom, but outside of the classroom as well," she said.

Although nerve-racking, Wise looks toward the future with anticipation and excitement.

"It's a new chapter in my life," Wise said. "I know this is what I want to do and to start on this path is very exciting."

# ORAL SURGEON

**Michael Border '11 D.D.S.**

**Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Resident,  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center**

*B.S., Biochemistry, University of Mount Union*

*D.D.S., Dental Surgery, The Ohio State University*

 Read more of Border's story at [mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).



## Solid Background

I left Mount fully confident that the biochemistry and pre-med background I received would equip me to perform well at the next level, but it was the greater exposure I had to various other fields due to the liberal arts education that really substantiated the success I would find after graduating from Mount. Mount Union taught me more than I could have imagined about what it means to truly be an effective leader and the emphasis that must be placed on service back to my academic field and community. These life lessons have remained extremely influential for me as a clinician as I interact with my patients daily, working to relate to them in an effort to provide the highest quality of care possible.

## Invaluable Internships

I had two internships during my time at Mount Union. The summer after my sophomore year, I completed a research internship at New York University as a part of the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates. During my internship, I worked with researchers as we aimed to develop and test the 3-D printing of surgical scaffolds for the repair of bone defects. My second internship was completed the summer after my junior year as I served as a researcher within the University of North Carolina's School of Dentistry. During this experience, I worked with a team of researchers assessing the viability of salivary biomarkers in monitoring blood glucose in patients with Type 2 diabetes.

## Favorite Part of My Job

The patients. I have the opportunity to enjoy a career that allows me to have an impact on their lives.

# PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGIST

## Dr. Gina (DeVault '02) Ney

Pediatric Oncology Fellow,  
University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

*B.S., Chemistry, University of Mount Union*

*Ph.D., Chemistry, University of Michigan*

*M.D., University of Michigan*

Read more of Ney's story at  
[mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).



### Focused Attention

I felt that I received a lot of one-on-one attention in my classes at Mount Union but particularly in science. Professors invested a lot of time in students and figuring out how to help them achieve their goals.

### Lifelong Learner

While I was at Mount Union, one of my professors recommended a summer research program at Wellesley College in Boston, which made me realize I enjoyed doing research. I decided to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in chemistry at the University of Michigan to explore my research interests. While there, I met a lot of people who had both M.D. and Ph.D degrees, and they encouraged me to consider medical school as a way to merge my love of research with the care of patients. After I finished my Doctor of Philosophy degree, I then attended medical school at the University of Michigan. I graduated in 2011 and completed my residency in pediatrics. I am now working to complete my pediatric oncology fellowship at the University of Michigan.

### Lifetime Goal

I want to know that I did something positive for someone else. The care of pediatric oncology patients has improved by leaps and bounds over the last 30 years. If my patients that are dying today are not going to die in 30 years due to my research, then I will know I was doing something worthwhile.



## Cenell Munford-Clark '93

**Athletic Trainer,  
Columbus Fitness Consultants**

*B.S., Sports Medicine, University of Mount Union*

*M.S., Exercise Physiology, The University of Akron*

Read more of Munford-Clark's story  
at [mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).

### **Why Mount Union**

Mount Union was close to home – I was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. Also, the sports medicine field was growing and it was something I enjoyed. When I visited campus, I met the late Dan Gorman (director of athletic training), and after talking with him and visiting the campus, I fell in love. It was so beautiful, and I liked the small campus feel.

### **Favorite Professor**

Dr. Steve Kramer – I went on a wilderness trip with him and I will never forget the experience of being in the Adirondack Mountains with my peers, being scared to death and Dr. Kramer being there and walking us through that experience. It's professors like that who helped mentor me along the way.

### **Hands-On Experience**

In athletic training, we worked with Mount Union athletic teams so we traveled quite a bit with them. It allowed me to have practical experience and learn to do manual therapy. Getting that practical experience, being able to work in that setting and feeling comfortable working with people put me ahead of colleagues who had never worked with another person.

### **Favorite Part of My Job**

I enjoy helping people feel better and stronger. It's very rewarding when someone says they feel so much better after I've worked with them.



## Dr. Saleena Niehaus '10

### Podiatric Medicine and Surgical Resident Alliance Community Hospital

*B.S., Biology, University of Mount Union*

*D.P.M., Kent State College of Podiatric Medicine*



Read more of Niehaus' story at  
[mountunion.edu/magazine](http://mountunion.edu/magazine).

#### Why Mount Union

I grew up going to basketball and soccer camps at Mount Union, and I loved it so it was always my top pick. Once I was accepted, there was no other choice.

#### Undergraduate Research

While at Mount Union, I conducted research with Dr. Kim Risley, and that was a really helpful experience. It prepared me for the laboratory work in medical school.

#### Career Preparation

Mount Union gave me a really well-rounded education. I felt very prepared coming out with all of my basic science courses. Getting a well-rounded education is really important for going into medicine. Taking some of the general education courses in English, writing and public speaking help prepare you to communicate better with your patients in the future.

#### Love for Podiatry

What I love about podiatry is that you get to see a little bit of everything. I get to do surgery but I'm also in the clinic seeing patients. I love to talk, and I can talk to my patients every day. We treat everything from the knee down, so I see dermatology issues, trauma, sports medicine. It never gets boring.

Class Notes to be included in the Fall 2015 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before July 31, 2015.

Material for Class Notes is obtained from the "Update" form at the end of the *Mount Union Magazine*, online or 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 online at [alumni.mountunion.edu](http://alumni.mountunion.edu) or email [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu).

**Class Reunion**  
Come back to campus to celebrate your class reunion on October 10 during Mount Union's Alumni Weekend and Homecoming!

## 1950s

**Class of 1950...**  
**Mark your calendars for your 65th Class Reunion on October 10!**  
The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) if you're interested in assisting your class.

**Jesse A. Reese '51**, a World War II veteran, received the Distinguished Flying Cross medal from the U.S. Air Force 70 years after he earned it during a mission in Europe.

**Class of 1955...**  
**Mark your calendars for your 60th Class Reunion on October 10!**  
The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) if you're interested in assisting your class.

## 1960s

**Class of 1960...**  
**Mark your calendars for your 55th Class Reunion on October 10!**  
The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) if you're interested in assisting your class.

## 1970s

**Class of 1970...**  
**Mark your calendars for your 45th Class Reunion on October 10!**  
The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) if you're interested in assisting your class.

**Charles E. Durant '73** earned a master's level certificate in health informatics from the University of Texas. As a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, he is also active in the Health Information Management Systems Society and recently became chairman of the Austin, Texas chapter's advocacy program.

**Class of 1975...**  
**Mark your calendars for your 40th Class Reunion on October 10!**  
The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) if you're interested in assisting your class.



Nine '76 Mount Union graduates gathered together for a mini Mount reunion at Put-in-Bay, Ohio. Back Row: (Standing left to right) are **Nancy (Orwick '76) McCamon**, **Karen (Sarff '76) Johnson**, **Diane (Smith '76) Hisey**, **Jane (Disegi '76) Howell**, **Cathy (Daniels '76) Rivas** and **Laurie (Kerr '76) Tarosky**. Front Row: (Seated left to right) **Cathi (Hunter '76) Friend**, **Lynn (McMillen '76) Linsley** and **Marilyn (Kurtz '76) Ruff**.

## 1980s

**Class of 1980...**  
**Mark your calendars for your 35th Class Reunion on October 10!**  
The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) if you're interested in assisting your class.



**Douglas E. Spiker '83**, a partner in Roetzel's Cleveland office and Employment Services Practice Group Manager, has been named a 2015 Ohio Super Lawyer in the field of Workers' Compensation by Ohio Super Lawyers magazine.

**Class of 1985...**  
**Mark your calendars for your 30th Class Reunion on October 10!**  
The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) if you're interested in assisting your class.

## 1990s

### Class of 1990...

#### Mark your calendars for your 25th Class Reunion on October 10!

The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact alumni@mountunion.edu if you're interested in assisting your class.



**Jeff Bartolet '92** and **Sherri Lyons** were married November 22, 2014 in South Charlestown, West Virginia.

**Shari (Sanor '92)** and **Frank Armstrong** are the parents of Eileen, 13, Joshua, 10 and Jolynn, 4.

**Melissa (Crytzer '94)** Fry's novel, "The Quickness of Life," was a semi-finalist in the 2014 William Faulkner-William Wisdom Writing Competition and a finalist in the 2014 Columbus Creative Cooperative's Great Novel Contest. She and her husband, Steve, live in southern Arizona.



**Kara (Tardivel '94)** Levri and her husband announce the birth of a daughter, Mia Colleen, on December 12, 2014.

### Class of 1995...

#### Mark your calendars for your 20th Class Reunion on October 10!

The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact alumni@mountunion.edu if you're interested in assisting your class.



**Amity (Hartman '96)** and **Joshua Schlicher** announce the birth of twin daughters, Evelyn Valerie and Olivia Karen, on May 16, 2014.



**Catherine (Oakes '97)** and **Shaun '98 Rook** announce the birth of a son, Brayden Arthur, on December 18, 2014, who joins sister Casey Rose, 2.

## 2000s

### Class of 2000...

#### Mark your calendars for your 15th Class Reunion on October 10!

The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact alumni@mountunion.edu if you're interested in assisting your class.



**Erin (King '00)** and **Jeff Troyer** announce the birth of a daughter, Kyla Jade, on July 8, 2011.

**Carrie (Canavan '02)** and **Steve Donahue** announce the birth of a son, Caden Allen, on July 10, 2014.



**Brianne (Kagarise '02)** and **Charlie Sykora** announce the birth of a daughter, Eleanor Marie, on April 13, 2014.

## ASSOCIATION MESSAGE



As I write this, Mount Union is preparing to welcome Dr. Richard Merriman as the 12th president of the institution. The Alumni Association Executive

Leadership Team will meet with him in July to outline our mission, goals and the passion we have for Mount Union. Whether you are a recent graduate of the University or, like me, a graduate of MUC, we can all relate to the impact that Mount has had on our lives. Welcoming events are being planned throughout the year for you to meet Dr. Merriman and his wife, Dr. Margot Kelman. Check the alumni website for opportunities and make a point to attend, say hello and welcome them to the Raider family. Make sure the Office of Alumni Engagement has your current email address so that we can stay in touch!

My passion for Mount Union was strengthened under the direction and leadership of Dr. Richard and Mrs. Sandra Giese. The transformation of the institution was unparalleled nationally. The addition of new majors, degrees and programs, along with the outstanding accomplishments of our athletic and fine arts programs, are attracting students of tomorrow from across the country and around the world. Mount Union is strong and poised to compete for the best of the best. I am proud to have served as Alumni Association president during Dr. Giese's tenure and wish them all the very best on their new adventure!

The 2014-2015 Fiscal Year is coming to a close this month and your support to The Mount Union Fund is critical. Support in any amount makes a difference!

On behalf of the entire Alumni Executive Board, enjoy the summer.

–Joel Sassa '78  
Alumni Association President

**Sonja (Nakonecznyj '04) and Drew Kreps '02** are the parents of Charlie, 3, born May 29, 2011 and Anna, 1, born June 3, 2013. The couple was married July 10, 2010.



**Amanda (Darrah '05) and Keith Waesch '94** announce the birth of a son, Gerren William, on February 23, 2014. He joins brother Nathan, 4, and sister Ryan, 2. Amanda is a healthcare attorney and partner at Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC in Akron, Ohio. Keith is the athletic director for Rootstown Local Schools.



**Drew DeHart '06** was named manager of corporate partnerships for the Tampa Bay Rays in August 2014.



**Kelley (Bryan '06) and Jason Broadwater** were married August 23, 2014. Members of the bridal party included **Lisa Bryan '07** and **Michelle Bryan '12**. Kelley is an attorney with Childers and Smith LLP.



**John '07 and Sarah Highman** announce the birth of a son, Alexander John, on September 23, 2014. The couple resides in Canton, Ohio.

**Class of 2005...**



**Mark your calendars for your 10th Class Reunion on October 10!**

The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact alumni@mountunion.edu if you're interested in assisting your class.

# ALUMNI AWARDS

## Now Accepting Nominations!

Help the Alumni Association honor Mount Union alumni and friends who demonstrate exceptional success.

### Dodie Davis Alumni Service Award

Presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in a chosen or professional field and for service to the University or community. The award represents the highest non-academic honor an alumnus/alumna can receive from Mount Union.

### McKinley Fellow Award

Recognizes a select group of individuals who have had a significant impact on Mount Union as non-alumni.

### Young Alumni Award

Honors those who, at very early stages in their chosen careers or callings, exemplify what Mount Union hopes all alumni will strive to achieve upon graduating from Mount Union. The award is given to graduates within the past 15 years for their outstanding support, leadership and dedication to the University as young alumni.

**Visit [alumni.mountunion.edu](http://alumni.mountunion.edu) for details. DEADLINE: June 30, 2015**



**Amanda (Ford '08)** and Matthew Van Wormer announce the birth of a daughter, Colette Elizabeth, on July 7, 2014.

**A.J. Knapp '09** was promoted to senior accountant at Rea & Associates, Inc., an accounting consulting firm. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Ashland University.



**Jeremy '08** and Carin Roseberry announce the birth of a daughter, Kylie Marie Roseberry, on May 1, 2014. They reside in Coshocton, Ohio where Jeremy

is a United Methodist pastor of Canal Lewisville and Park United Methodist churches.



## 1966 Around The World Choir Tour

In 1966, Mount Union's Concert Choir, led by Cecil "Pop" Stewart, went on a 48-day Around-the-World Tour. Dubbed "Peace through Understanding," the tour visited Alaska, Japan, Southeast Asia, Near East, Greece, Italy, England and France.

## 2010s

**Class of 2010...**

**Mark your calendars for your 5th Class Reunion on October 10!**

The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers for each class to contact former classmates and friends to assist in planning. Contact alumni@mountunion.edu if you're interested in assisting your class.



**Candace Chevront '10** and **Kevin Shadrach '12** were married July 26, 2014 at the Alliance Country Club. Members of the wedding party included **Eric**

**Shadrach '10, Joe Spooner '12, Chad Rhoades '12, Jake DeLuca '15, Michelle Cogan '10, Holly Herstine '10 and Megan Shadrach '14.** They reside in Seven Hills, Ohio and both are teachers.



**Ryan MacLennan '10** and **Sarah Moffett '10** were married October 4, 2014. The bridal party included **Ian Valverde '10.**



**Brett Baker '10** and **Lauren Brobeck '08** were married October 18, 2014 in Asheville, North Carolina. The bridal party included **Emily Brobeck '05, Brittany (Huebler**

**'08) Greiner, Drew McClain '10, Zac Saum '10 and Justin Smith '10.** Brett is a service manager for Cintas First Aid and Safety in Cleveland, Ohio. Lauren is an OB/GYN resident physician in Akron, Ohio.



**Kellie (Seward '11)** and Greg Boyd announce the birth of twin daughters, Quinn Marie and Sutton Katie, on September 18, 2014.



**Kelly Wiseman '12** earned a Master of Biomedical Sciences degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Toledo in 2014. Kelly recently

became a pediatric surgery physician assistant at Texas Children's Hospital.

# Mark Your Calendar!

## Saturday, July 11 • M Club Golf Scramble

Check-in begins at noon, shotgun start will begin at 1 p.m., Tannenhauf Golf Club  
Download reservation form at [alumni.mountunion.edu](http://alumni.mountunion.edu).

## Wednesday, July 22 • Foodie Field Trip Cleveland West Side Market District Bus Tour

7:30 a.m., Departs from Hoover-Price Campus Center Parking Lot  
Tickets are \$73.50 each.

## Thursday, July 23 • Akron Rubber Ducks Baseball Game

7:05 p.m., Canal Park Stadium, Akron, Ohio  
Tickets are \$6 each. Add a food voucher for \$5 more  
(includes hot dog, chips and fountain drink at any concession stand)

## Saturday, August 1 • Family Fun Fest

1-3 p.m., Mount Union Quad  
Stop by campus for a few hours of free, family-friendly  
entertainment before the end of summer!

## Saturday, October 10 • Alumni Weekend and Homecoming

Contact your friends and make plans to return to campus for this year's Alumni Weekend and  
Homecoming featuring reunions for graduation years ending in 0s and 5s.  
The complete schedule of events will be available this summer!

Like **connecting** with alumni?

Hearing the latest **news**?

Learning about upcoming **events**?

Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/mountunionalumni](http://facebook.com/mountunionalumni)

Follow us on Twitter! [twitter.com/mountunionalum](http://twitter.com/mountunionalum)

Visit our website! [alumni.mountunion.edu](http://alumni.mountunion.edu)

# THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

“DEFIANCE IN ALLIANCE”

DIRECTED BY  
**MARK DUNCAN**

**KATHERINA**

**PETRUCHIO**

**JULY  
23,24,  
25,26**



## Deaths

### 1930s

**Frances T. Latell '34** of Girard, Ohio, died January 13, 2015.

**Arthur “Pat” Engelberg '37** of Louisville, Ohio, died December 23, 2014. He retired as an administrator of the Stark County Court of Common Pleas. He was a member of Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church and AARP and was a World War II Army veteran. His passions in life were family, singing, dancing, games and people.

### 1940s

**Marjorie (Smith '40) Woodring** of Rootstown, Ohio, died December 8, 2014. She was affiliated with Alpha Chi Omega sorority and was a member of the A Capella Choir at Mount Union. Marjorie's whole life was her pride in her children, Caryl Rae and

David Wayne. She taught second grade at Lincoln School in Cuyahoga Falls for 25 years retiring in 1985 as teacher emeritus. She was honored as a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar in 1969-1970. An avid traveler, she visited all 50 states before traveling out of the United States 33 times, going to 93 countries, including all seven continents plus the North Pole.

**Marian (Kayler '41)** Kienzle of Canton, Ohio, died February 20, 2015.

**Betty (Lynn '42)** Jones of Sebring, Ohio, died February 28, 2015.

**Martha (Blum '43)** Strauch of Canton, Ohio, died September 6, 2014. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority at Mount Union and taught at Belden School prior to starting a family.

**William Hunter '44** of Cleveland, Ohio, died March 5, 2015.

**Ruth (Mani '45)** Fiegenschuh of Batavia, Ohio, died January 29, 2015.

**Martha (Scott '47)** Wheaton of Alliance, Ohio, died January 19, 2015. She taught in Columbus, Alliance and surrounding schools from 1947-1953. Martha had a love for books, music and sports throughout her life and was an avid reader, averaging a book a week for many years. She enjoyed classical music and sang in the choir at Mount Union. She belonged to Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Psi Kappa Omega honorary, Alliance Woman's Club, Coterie and Sorosis clubs in Alliance. She was a longtime member of First Immanuel United Church of Christ and served as secretary of its Trinity Circle.

**Joy (Ellsworth '48)** Heron of Goleta, California, died February 6, 2015.

**Dr. Don S. Mueller '49** of Carsonville, Michigan, died January 8, 2015. He was a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace, Mount Union, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Clayton University. He was a devoted educator for 47 years who taught in

Benton Harbor and Okemos. He was the high school principal at Dansville and DeWitt. He retired after serving as superintendent of schools at Carsonville-Port Sanilac for 27 years. He was member of MEA, NEA, the Michigan Association of School Administrators and the River Area Superintendent's Association.

**Mary (Amstutz '49)** Ruff of Alliance, Ohio, died January 16, 2015. Mary was an elementary and music teacher in the Alliance school system and retired in 1985 after teaching for 30 years. A member of Christ United Methodist Church, she was also involved with Eastern Star and the Elks Widows Club.

## 1950s

**James D. Lucas '52** of Louisville, Ohio, died November 5, 2014. He proudly served his country as a meteorologist with the United States Air Force. He started in the grocery business in 1947 at Persky's Market in Alliance. Jim and his wife, Mary, opened the Kountry Korner Market in Maximo in 1976. He was a member of the East Central Ohio Food Association and was a founding member of the ECO Credit Union where he received numerous awards for his accomplishments.

**Richard Klan '58** of Huntsville, Alabama, died February 20, 2015.

**Joyce V. Stouffer '58** of Alliance, Ohio, died November 6, 2014. A graduate of Alliance High School, Mount Union, Pittsburgh University and Robert Morris College, she was active in the Republican Party and ran for a state office. A teacher at Alliance High School from 1972 to 1976, she then worked for Columbia Ribbon & Carbon and retired in 1996 from Prudential Insurance.

**William E. Brogden '59** of Sun City Center, Florida, died December 4, 2014. He taught English, literature and German at Glenwood High School in

Canton, Ohio. He moved his family to Hartford, Connecticut and worked for Travelers for three years before moving to Aetna Life and Casualty. William was an active member of the Jaycees in Hartford, president of Hartford Gun Club and an avid golfer. In 1992, he retired and moved to Sun City Center where he continued to enjoy golf. William was a member of the South Shore Methodist Church.

## 1960s

**Shirley (Selway '60)** Clark of Canton, Ohio, died January 24, 2015. She taught in the Plain Local School District for 35 years, retiring in 1995.

**Ann (Mackey '63)** Koch of Vienna, Virginia, died October 27, 2014. She married the late Robert Koch. She was the sister of James Mackey of Tallmadge and Jane Barrett of North Canton, and she is survived by her three children and five grandchildren, all of Vienna.

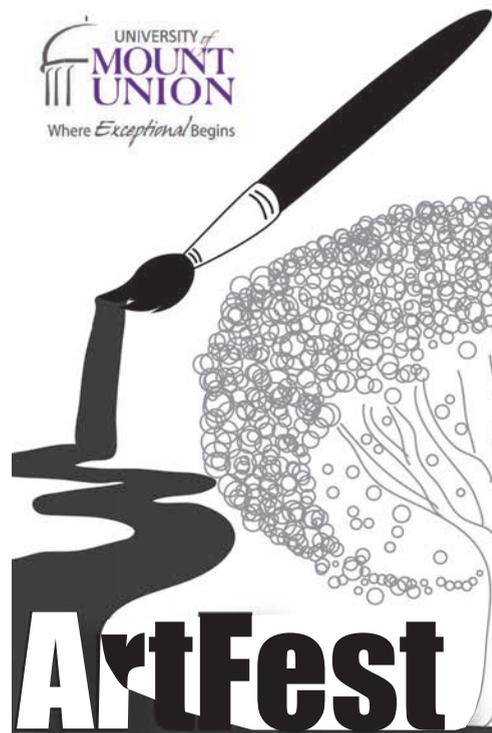
**Jesse W. Howard '64** of Kingsville, Ohio, died December 19, 2014. Jesse was hired as a teacher at West Main School in Conneaut and later served as a teacher and principal for Monroe School. During that time, he attended graduate school at Westminster College and earned an administrative degree while teaching. Jesse also taught college classes to teachers from Youngstown State. He worked for the Conneaut School system for 25 years, with the "Gifted Program-Allegro" at the Vo-Ed for five years and was responsible for the development of a mentorship program throughout Ashtabula County.

**Dominic Carcelli '67** of Struthers, Ohio, died February 12, 2015.

**Catherine Loyal (Kanson '67)** Howenstine of Tequesta, Florida, died December 26, 2014. She married her high school sweetheart, James Howenstine, in 1967 and they shared their lives

together in Steubenville, Ohio. She was active in numerous Steubenville-area civic and charitable organizations.

**Jamee L. (Wallace '68)** Pifer of Cape Coral, Florida, died November 10, 2014. She was a longtime employee of Olin Hill and Associates in Cape Coral, Florida. Jamee enjoyed spending time with family and friends and spending time at her family home in Mansfield, Ohio. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Dave Pifer.



**Saturday,  
September 19**

**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
(rain or shine)**

**Mount Union  
Campus Lakes**

**[mountunion.edu/artfest](http://mountunion.edu/artfest)**

## Dr. James Rodman '49



**Dr. James Rodman '49** of Alliance, Ohio, died January 2, 2015. He was an engineer, inventor, entrepreneur, community volunteer, teacher, scientist, musician, designer and philanthropist. Rodman graduated from Western Reserve Academy in 1944 after which his entire graduating class enlisted for military service. He received an honorable discharge at the war's end. He graduated magna

cum laude with Honors in physics from Mount Union in 1949 with a rare triple major in physics, mathematics and chemistry and minors in Spanish and history.

Rodman married **Margaret (Kinsey) '51** of Alliance in 1950. The couple moved to St. Louis where he went on to earn a master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis in experimental nuclear physics in 1951. They then moved back to Alliance where he joined the Mount Union physics department in 1951 as an assistant professor, and they started their family. There he worked until late 1959 when he was granted a leave of absence to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in astrophysics in 1963 from Yale University. He returned to Mount Union in 1962 to take over as head of the physics department where he taught his popular introduction to physics classes as well as advanced topics in optics, mechanics and astrophysics.

## Richard F. Myers '44



**Richard F. Myers '44, 92**, of Alliance, Ohio, died February 13, 2015.

Myers was born in Alliance, Ohio and grew up on a farm three miles northeast of Beloit, Ohio. He graduated from Sebring High School in 1940 and was president of his class. He was a member of the Mount Union Class of 1944 and Sigma Nu Fraternity.

Myers joined the U.S. Navy in 1942 and attended Dartmouth College through the Navy V-12 Program. Upon graduation from the Navy V-12, he attended Cornell University's Mid-Shipman School and graduated as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. His war service was in the Pacific Theater, aboard the USS Lumen, an attack cargo ship. On September 21, 1944, he married Lois **Everett '46**.

Rodman loved to teach, and he loved his students, taking great pride in their accomplishments. He taught for 30 more years while taking only one sabbatical until his retirement in 1993. Even then, he continued to serve Mount Union as staff astronomer.

Rodman's broader contributions to Mount Union included the Rodman Playhouse Theater stage lighting system, which he designed, wired and installed with his lifelong friend **Bill Bowman '56**; the Clarke Observatory where at its original location he rebuilt and refurbished the original telescope and designed and installed the planetarium there; WRMU which he established and conceived, designed, built from war surplus and operated the entire radio transmission system and gifting back to Mount Union the greater part of the sum of his paychecks over the years.

Rodman was the Mount Union Faculty Lecturer (1965); received the Mount Union Great Teacher Award (1976); was honored with the Mayor of Alliance's Outstanding Community Service Award (1978); was Grand Marshal of the Alliance Carnation Festival Parade (1986) and served as Mount Union's Marshal (1989-92).

Rodman is survived by his wife and their children William (Kathy) of Snowmass, Colorado and grandchildren David and Elissa; Jeffrey (Alexandra) of Baltimore, Maryland and grandchildren Drew and John; David (Sandy) of Alliance and grandchildren Molly and Sam; and Gretchen Zawaski (Mike) of Alliance and grandchildren Steven, Maggie Smith (Zawaski) and Callie.

In 1945, Myers joined the family business, Myers Equipment Corp., a dealership selling school buses and truck equipment, located in Canfield, Ohio. Myers became president of the company upon the retirement of his father and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1995.

He loved listening to country western music and reading the daily newspapers. He also loved Mount Union football and baseball.

Myers and his brother, David, formed Myers Brothers Farms in 1949 and began raising Shetland ponies. As the business grew, they added dairy, livestock and grain farms. Upon his retirement, Richard sold his share of the businesses to his brother, David.

Myers was trustee emeritus at Mount Union, serving as a board member since 1972.

# UPDATE FORM

## Name and Address The information I am providing is new.

Dr.  Rev.  Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Miss Name \_\_\_\_\_ first \_\_\_\_\_ last \_\_\_\_\_ maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Dr.  Rev.  Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Miss Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_ first \_\_\_\_\_ last \_\_\_\_\_ maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation (if from Mount) \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_ box/house number and street \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## Occupation The information I am providing is new.

Your occupation (title) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (full name) \_\_\_\_\_

Business address \_\_\_\_\_ box/house number and street \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's occupation (title) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (full name) \_\_\_\_\_

Business address \_\_\_\_\_ box/house number and street \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## Children The information I am providing is new.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_  male  female Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_  male  female Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_  male  female Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

## Marriage Announcement The information I am providing is new.

Date of marriage \_\_\_\_\_

## Honor or Achievement

Recent honor or achievement \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Other Information

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I do not want my information to be included in the Mount Union Magazine.

*Please note: The University of Mount Union does not sell alumni contact information. It does however, provide access to our alumni list to a limited number of third party vendors with which the University has contracted to conduct business on its behalf (market research, class agents, etc.).*

An update about you and your family is always requested by fellow alumni, and the Office of Alumni Engagement would like to know as well! If you have any news for us, complete this form and send it to:

Office of Alumni Engagement  
University of Mount Union  
1972 Clark Ave.  
Alliance, OH 44601  
(800) 992-6682  
(330) 823-2030  
Fax (330) 829-2805  
alumni@mountunion.edu

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Remember, pictures are welcome! They will be used at the discretion of the magazine staff, as space allows. Photos that are submitted for publication in the magazine cannot be returned.

# Cheryl (Brown '72) and Dr. Richard '72 Drake



The University of Mount Union holds a special place in the hearts of Rick and Cheryl Drake. Their time on campus as students allowed them the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, pursue activities outside of the classroom and receive a quality education. It's also the place where they first met and ultimately fell in love.

The couple has shown their love and loyalty to Mount Union over the years in many ways. They have supported The Mount Union Fund since 1983, earning them membership in the Forever Mount Society and 1846 Society. The Drakes established The Drake Family Scholarship in 2014, supporting religious studies, and made a significant gift to name a science lab in Bracy Hall in honor of Dr. Leonard Epp.

*"Mount Union opened doors to a world of opportunity for us," said Rick. "It offered a variety of choices professionally, a place to find a partner for life's journey and a chance to pursue extracurricular activities that enriched our college experience. If our gifts can continue to provide these opportunities for the next generation of students, then we are proud to pay it forward," added Cheryl.*

Rick also gives back to Mount Union through his time and talents, serving as a member of the University's Board of Trustees, the Physician Assistant Studies Advisory Council and the Physical Therapy Advisory Board. He's a frequent visitor to campus as he teaches classes in Mount Union's Physician Assistant Studies Program.

Rick is the director of anatomy and professor of surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, and Cheryl is the owner of Business and Technical Communications.

For more information on making a gift to Mount Union, contact Gregory L. King '89, vice president for university advancement, at (330) 823-2282 or kinggl@mountunion.edu.

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