Jill (Thompson ’77) Lee of Cambridge, Ohio was selected as the Ohio State Highway Patrol District Seven Employee Recognition Award winner and retired April 17, 2020 after 26 years of service with the State of Ohio.

Keylon Patch ’72 has retired after 45 years in the insurance claims industry.


Scott Thornberry ’78 was recently inducted into the East Liverpool Athletic Hall of Fame for his 36 years as the track and cross-country coach at East Liverpool High School. Thornberry is the winningest coach of any sport in the history of East Liverpool High School. He has coached several all-state athletes, including one Olympian. Thornberry and his wife Nanci reside in East Liverpool, Ohio.

Debra (Pinney ’76) Warren of Ft. Wayne, Indiana has announced her retirement as director of athletics at Indiana Tech. Warren worked in college athletics and administration for more than 40 years.

Eric Bruno ’91 of Rockford, Illinois recently retired from the Rockford Police Department after 25 years of service. He is currently teaching criminal justice at Rockford East High School and serving as an adjunct professor at Rockford University.


2000s

Leah (Wetherald ’07) and Paul Condon announce the birth of a daughter, Evelyn Marie, on June 2, 2019. She joins brothers Ethan, 5, and Caleb, 3.

Rachel (Moser ’04) Corke accepted a new role as training and events coordinator with DHL Global in London, England.

Sarah (Gnoddie ’06) and Joe Kolarz, of Orange, Ohio, announce the birth of a son, Corey Joseph, on May 25, 2019.

Fr. Michael Gossett ’05 of Steubenville, Ohio served his community by holding daily Mass and livestreaming it on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. He is also at Steubenville Catholic Central, where he is active in hands-on activities when possible.

Qwickly, a Cleveland area tech company co-founded by Matt Hagdis ’06, who is also the company’s president, was named one of the Top 10 Tech Startups in Cleveland by The Tech Tribune.

Karla (Devlin ’03) Lassonde was the recipient of a series of awards and accomplishments at Minnesota State University Mankato; Outstanding Under-
Crystal (Liptak ’06) and Phillip ’06 Mansfield announce the birth of a daughter, Anna-belle Virginia, on September 16, 2018.

Nicole (Chapman ’02) Parker of Kirtland, Ohio was awarded Woman of Achievement from Lakeland Community College for her work with Dare 2 Care International in lifting up women and children around the world.

David Ross ’02 and Joyce Varalamos were married on June 25, 2018 on Anna Maria Island, Florida.

Victoria Snyder ’08 of Baden, Pennsylvania was recently named to Pittsburgh Magazine’s List of 40 Under 40. She is an award-winning vice president of the rapidly expanding multimedia company Yo Momz House and the director of programming for an arts education program that helps local students find and use their voices.

2010s

Brandon Alexander ’10 was named the chief network and software engineer at ISA Corporation.

Haley (Umbs ’14) and Martin ’14 Chaffin announce the birth of twins, Luke and Brinley, born December 17, 2019.

Morgan (Welker ’16) and Jake Kail announce the birth of a daughter, Rena, on September 26, 2019.

Hillary (Markel ’13) and Scott ’12 Lawrence II, announce the birth of two children; a son, Scott III on February 2, 2017 and a daughter, Reese, on October 7, 2019.

Allison Barnhart ’14 and Mark Mara, Jr. ’16 were married October 5, 2019 in Louisville, Ohio. Alumni in the wedding party were Anthony Mara ’12 and Greg Koman ’15.

Megan McMinn ’15 and Chris Betts were married October 5, 2019.

Sarah (Dye ’11) and Mark ’11 Price, announce the birth of a daughter, Stella Vincenza, on November 7, 2019.

Jessica Sopkovich ’16 and Andrew Decker ’17 were married on August 17, 2019. Included in the wedding party were Kalyn (Budner ’16) Wilson, Kristen Jackson ’17, Trevor Wilson ’16, Matthew Furgiuele ’17, and Matthew Decker ’11.

Stephanie (Treubig ’15) and Joshua ’14 Stitt, announce the birth of a son, Liam, on October 1, 2019.

Kelby Smith ’18 and Zachary Davis were married January 11, 2020. The couple resides in Alliance, Ohio.

Virtual Class Reunions

The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking milestone reunion volunteers to contact former classmates and assist in planning virtual class reunions for Alumni Week 2020 for their milestone gathering! Contact alumni@mountunion.edu if you’re interested in assisting your class.

Deaths

1930s

Thelma (Schultz ’38) Grenier of Alliance, Ohio and the spouse of the late Joseph Grenier ’40 passed away May 13, 2020.

1940s

Michael Birthelmer ’49 of Neosho, Missouri passed away March 1, 2020.

Jeanne (Eddins ’49) Doll of Austin, Texas passed away January 28, 2020.


Thalia (Bedell ’47) Jones of Roanoke, Virginia passed away March 26, 2020. Thalia is the mother of Neva (Jones ’69) Hart and Jodiene (Jones) Koblenzer.
Personally, I strive to maintain constants in my life, and I’m sure many of you do as well. Even while we try to maintain that balance, we experience change, and change is a good thing.

Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines change in the following ways: “to make different in some particular; to give a different position, course, or direction to; to replace with another.” Change has occurred in many forms over the past several months and change will continue to occur over the coming months. In my inaugural address to you, I wanted to highlight this theme of change.

To introduce myself, my name is Chad Johnson, and I’m a 2007 graduate of Mount Union, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting and business administration (finance concentration). After attending Mount Union, I earned a Master of Taxation degree from the University of Akron. I’m a certified public accountant and employed by Deloitte Tax LLP as a tax senior manager.

I currently have the privilege and honor of serving as president of the Mount Union Alumni Association, with my two-year term commencing at the beginning of this year. Serving in this role for almost eight months now, I must take a moment to thank my predecessors who served in a similar position over the past several years (Bob Kerr ’89, Bill Schumacher III ’82, and Joel Sassa ’78). While I didn’t serve in an Executive Committee leadership capacity while all these alumni served as president, I was able to witness firsthand their dedication, steadfast support, and leadership to Mount Union; principles I hope to carry on throughout my term. Additionally, I’m extremely pleased and excited to have Jen (Thurin ’03) Slack take the reigns of Alumni Association vice president. Change.

With the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, change was a continual theme. The Board of Trustees held its first entirely virtual meeting in May. Academic classes shifted entirely to a virtual environment. The Schooler Lecture, which was to feature Donna Brazile and Ana Navarro, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, was postponed. Student Celebration Honoring Our Latest Academic Research (SCHOLAR) Day and the Senior Recognition and Honors Convocation were celebrated through social media channels. Baccalaureate and Commencement were postponed. Even with these disruptions, we eagerly look forward to the day when we return to in-person events, and most importantly, celebrate the achievements of so many that occurred this spring and summer. Change.

Our Alumni Association committee structure has been transformed, and we’re always looking for additional alumni to offer their perspectives, thoughts, and support. I’d especially like to extend a welcome to our alumni family to the Class of 2020! Our ties with Mount Union remain forever, and I encourage all to stay connected by following Mount Union’s social media platforms and keeping your contact information current so you can be invited to upcoming alumni events on campus and in YOUR area. Get involved with our Alumni Association, M Club, or Mount Union Women. No matter your interest or availability, we have something for you! Change.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't note one of the biggest changes that will be occurring at Mount Union this summer. We, as an institution, have bid farewell to the 12th president of Mount Union, Dr. W. Richard Merriman, Jr. and his wife, Dr. Margot Kelman. Dick and Margot have helped us focus as an institution on areas of great importance – a strategic plan, a capital campaign, and changing high school graduation demographics, just to name a few. All of these (and many others) will continue to set Mount Union on a path to success for many years to come. On behalf of our 19,000 alumni around the world, I want to extend our collective thanks and appreciation to both for all their efforts and the support they’ve provided throughout their time at Mount Union. In mid-July, we welcomed the 13th president of Mount Union, Dr. Thomas Botzman, and his wife, Vanessa to campus. We are very fortunate they have returned to the Mount Union community they called home during his tenure as a faculty member and administrator from 1989 to 2004. As an Alumni Association, we look forward to working with them both to further Mount Union for the future! Change.

I look forward to you joining us this fall for our virtual Alumni Week 2020! Many of the traditional activities, such as a message from the president, recognition of our alumni award recipients, class and reunions, and much more will be part of this unique celebration. Coming together, even virtually, will still allow us to connect and celebrate everything that is Mount Union! Once a Raider, always a Raider!

With Purple Raider Pride,

-Chad Johnson ’07
Alumni Association President
RAIDERS give
#raidersgive
THIRD ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING
06.16.20

PROUD ALUMNA 💙 Blessed to be part of #RaiderNation & glad to participate in #RaidersGive! @mountunion @mountunionalum

$493,306
TOTAL RAISED (+89%)

1,014
TOTAL DONORS (+130)

199
FACULTY AND STAFF DONORS

CLASS OF 2018
HIGHEST PARTICIPATION (41)

119
PARENT AND FAMILY DONORS

193
YOUNG ALUMNI DONORS

Join us for a VIRTUAL ALUMNI WEEK
OCTOBER 4-10
mountunion.edu/alumni


Emogene (Floto ’49) Todd of Oldsmar, Florida passed away December 31, 2019.


Donald Barrett ’57 of North Canton, Ohio passed away November 28, 2019.

Yvonne (Sudeck ’54) Bradley of Westlake Village, California passed away April 26, 2020.

Mary Jane (Jepson ’50) Cameron of Forest, Virginia passed away April 4, 2020.


Howard Cobbs ’52 of Richmond, Virginia passed away January 24, 2020.

Grace Crawford ’57 of Alliance, Ohio and Lutz, Florida passed away November 22, 2019.


Thelma (Walter ’58) Frye of San Carlos, California passed away February 19, 2020.

Louis Giovanelli ’53 of Tallmadge, Ohio passed away April 12, 2020.


Dean Hooker ’58 of Dover, Ohio passed away December 30, 2019.

Bruce Ketcham ’54 of New Hartford, New York passed away November 28, 2019.


Richard McFall ’51 of Alliance, Ohio, spouse of Carol (Heyne ’54) McFall, passed away January 22, 2020.


John McLachlan ’58 of Sebring, Ohio passed away May 5, 2020. John was the husband of Sandra (Starr ’58) McLachlan and father of Karen McLachlan ’84 and Daniel McLachlan.

George Miller ’51 of Alliance, Ohio passed away May 6, 2020.

John Monea ’52 of Canal Fulton, Ohio passed away December 10, 2019.


Isaletta “Letty” (Bennett ’50) Plikerd of Albuquerque, New Mexico passed away November 28, 2019.

Mary Ann (Branfield ’56) Reigle of Lakeside, Ohio passed away August 29, 2019.

Barbara (Yeagley ’50) Simmons of Conneaut, Ohio passed away January 2, 2020.

Elizabeth Smith ’56 of Colerain, Ohio passed away July 1, 2020.

Roger Smith ’52 of Beloit, Ohio and spouse of the late Jean (Kiser ’52) Smith, passed away May 31, 2020.


JoAnn (Ballantyne ’51) Stocker of Alliance, Ohio passed away July 9, 2020.


Ward “Bud” Tuttle ’51 of Alliance, Ohio passed away July 28, 2020. He was married to the late Arden (Davis ’52) Tuttle.

Russell Williams ’56 of Huntsville, Ohio and spouse of Lois (Tenney ’54) Williams, passed away April 26, 2020.


Beverly Barnett ’60 of Sebring, Ohio passed away May 22, 2020.

J. Rhea (Nile ’61) Brown of Palm Harbor, Florida passed away December 17, 2019.

J. Donald Cooper, Jr. ’64 of St. Clairsville, Ohio passed away February 28, 2020.


Richard Evans ’66 of Henderson, Texas passed away December 17, 2019.

Barbara (Hughes ’65) Fields of Orange City, Florida passed away November 24, 2019.

Joanne Fox ’68 of Meadville, Pennsylvania passed away November 11, 2019.

Isaletta “Letty” (Bennett ’50) Plikerd of Albuquerque, New Mexico passed away November 28, 2019.

Mary Ann (Branfield ’56) Reigle of Lakeside, Ohio passed away August 29, 2019.

Barbara (Yeagley ’50) Simmons of Conneaut, Ohio passed away January 2, 2020.


Ernest Lindenmayer ’64 of Ashtabula, Ohio passed away October 10, 2019.

Tila (Parker ’68) Luschin of Newbury, Ohio passed away December 24, 2019.

Carol (Young ’61) Morrow of Seminole, Florida passed away November 12, 2019.


Janice (Swogger ’65) Stahlsmith of Ashville, New York and The Villages, Florida passed away December 28, 2019.

Dean David Valentine ’61 of Nevada, Missouri passed away November 24, 2019.

Mary (Hood ’60) Washburn of Powhatan, Virginia passed away May 1, 2020.

1970s

Bonnie (Walker ’70) Clemente of Hubbard, Ohio passed away February 2, 2020.


Emmanuel Janikis ’75 of Aurora, Ohio passed away March 3, 2020.

Richard McElroy
Richard McElroy of Canton, Ohio passed away January 31, 2020. He was a former adjunct faculty member.

Mark Monday
Mark Monday, adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre, passed away November 16, 2019.

Linda Montgomery
Linda Montgomery of Alliance, Ohio passed away June 18, 2020. She joined the Mount Union community in 1995 as a member of the Physical Plant.

Following her time there, she became the administrative assistant in the DeWald Chapel, where she worked until the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Charles Morford
Charles Morford of Summerton, South Carolina passed away February 7, 2020. He served as an associate professor of speech and director of WRMU at Mount Union from 1966 until his retirement in 1994.

Michael Shepard
Michael Shepard of Lisbon, Ohio passed away April 1, 2020. He worked as a sous chef for AVI.

Dr. George Thomas
Dr. George Thomas of Alliance, Ohio passed away July 18, 2020. He was a professor of theology and philosophy from 1963-1993. He remained active in the Alliance community following his retirement.

Betty Loudin ’76 of Deerfield, Ohio passed away May 13, 2020.

Linda Maiorana ’72 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away April 15, 2020.
Linda (Johnston ’73) Mori of Atwater, Ohio passed away April 1, 2020. She was the widow of Douglas Mori ’72.

F. Gregg Robinson ’70 of Scottsdale, Arizona and the spouse of Cindy (Hickson ’70) Robinson passed away May 22, 2020.

Grace (Trump ’71) Sakel of Canton, Ohio passed away October 31, 2019.

Charles Schott ’77 of Alliance, Ohio passed away February 18, 2020.


Cynthia Ann Warren ’70 of Edgewood, Maryland and Columbus, Ohio passed away September 20, 2019.

1980s

Joan Arnold ’83 of Canton, Ohio passed away April 5, 2020.

Melinda (Medley ’80) Henceroth of Lisbon, Ohio, spouse of Dale Henceroth ’80, mother of Sara Henceroth ’19, and Emily Henceroth, passed away June 6, 2020.

1990s

Thomas Allison ’95 of Canton, Ohio passed away March 18, 2020.

Gary Cronk ’91 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away November 11, 2018.

Brian Frate ’95 of Concord, Ohio passed away December 22, 2019.

Susan (Sanor ’97) Nastari of Alliance, Ohio passed away June 7, 2020.

2000s

Ian Bowden ’00 of Warren, Ohio passed away November 23, 2019.

Susan Castellucci ’02 of Canton, Ohio passed away December 5, 2019.

Kevin Holler ’06 of Medina, Ohio passed away July 17, 2020.

2010s


Friends


Bruce Arbogast of Carrollton, Ohio, father of Alex Arbogast ’20, passed away November 8, 2019.

Sandy Barker of Alliance, Ohio passed away January 8, 2020. Sandy is survived by spouse Harold “Bud” Barker.

Sarah Baronzzi of Lisbon, Ohio passed away November 24, 2019.


Marjorie Dillon of Alliance, Ohio passed away December 3, 2019.

Sheila Fisher of Canton, Ohio passed away December 2, 2019. She served on the Board of Trustees from 1994-1997.

Ralph Raymond Gillespie of Newton Falls, Ohio passed away February 10, 2020. Ray was the father of Michael Gillespie ’77, father in-law of Darcy (Tannerhill ’77) Gillespie, and the grandfather of Tori Blandine ’21.


Joy (Jones) Groat of Marysville, Ohio passed away December 22, 2019. She is survived by spouse John M. Groat ’59.


Gary Lanning of Canton, Ohio passed away December 27, 2019.

Steven Lowers of Alliance, Ohio passed away February 12, 2020.

Barbara McCoy of Van Wert, Ohio passed away July 9, 2020. She is the mother of Ken McCoy ’87.

Jeffrey Peshek of Youngstown, Ohio passed away November 25, 2019.

John “Jack” Rowe, spouse of Jeannine (Draper ’69) Rowe, passed away April 1, 2020. Jack was also the father of Jody (Rowe ’80) Sivy.

Gladys Samay of Ashtabula, Ohio, mother of Michele (Samay ’85) Coss, Melinda (Samay ’86) Hardy, and Melanie (Samay ’89) Nigros, passed away November 9, 2019.


Glady’s (Noling) Stanfield of Sebring, Ohio passed away March 29, 2020.

Eileen Taylor of Melbourne, Florida passed away March 16, 2019.

Dewayne Woodring of Texas passed away July 4, 2020.

Betty Jane Yelic of Akron, Ohio passed away April 23, 2020. Betty Jane was the widow of the late Samuel Yelic ’50.