

MOUNT UNION

MOUNT UNION MAGAZINE | MOUNTUNION.EDU/MAGAZINE | #MOUNTUNION

SPRING/SUMMER
2020



Mount Union reflects on the
progressive work of
Dr. Dick Merriman and
Allen Green '77

POINTING

NORTH



1	Talking Points
6	First Look
12	Exceptional Education
14	Inspiring Stories
18	Class Notes

Get Social with #MountUnion



#BeExceptional

The University of Mount Union prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, veteran status, marital or parental status, pregnancy, disability, or genetic information in student admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or employment as now or may hereafter be required by University policy and federal or state law. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the Office of Human Resources, Beeghly Hall, (330) 829-6560, goodle@moundunion.edu.

EDITOR

Ryan Smith '14

DESIGNERS

Melissa (Smith '98) Gardner

Ryan Smith '14

CONTRIBUTORS

Dick Merriman

Maggie O'Donnell '20

Ryan Smith '14

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kelby (Smith '18) Davis

Cockrill's Studio

Tom Stugmeyer '79

EDITORIAL BOARD

Melissa (Smith '98) Gardner

Bethany Leslie

Gregory King '89

Dick Merriman

Ryan Smith '14

Audra (Lee '04) Youngen

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



MOUNT UNION KEEPS ITS COMMUNITY STRONG DURING COVID-19

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND/CARES ACT

Thanks to the support of generous alumni and friends, a total of more than \$175,000 has been raised to support students as part of the Mount Union COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund.

The goal of the Student Emergency Fund is to aid the most vulnerable students with unexpected and urgent expenses related to COVID-19, with 100 percent of every dollar given aiding individual students with their most pressing needs.

As a result of federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Mount Union was also able to provide emergency grants to students. Those who were struggling and continue to struggle with living expenses or other unexpected financial challenges related to the transition to remote learning received assistance.

AULTMAN HOUSING/MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Mount Union entered into an agreement with the Aultman Health Foundation of

Stark County to temporarily house its employees. This was intended for employees who wanted to shorten their commutes between long shifts or wanted to avoid the risk of inadvertently transmitting the virus to their family members.

Mount Union's Departments of Art and Nursing, along with its Physician Assistant Studies Program, contributed items to Aultman Hospital, Salem Regional Medical Center, and local fire depart-

"We just felt like we are not so big that we can't call every single student and reach out to them and make sure they know that we are concerned for them."

- Michelle Gaffney
Associate Dean of Students,
on the campus liaison program

ments. Some of the donations included: 100 surgical gown and cap sets, 7,750 pairs of sterile surgical gloves, 37 boxes of latex exam gloves, seven boxes of surgical masks, and other necessary supplies.

CAMPUS LIAISON PROGRAM

In an effort to ease students into the transition to remote learning, Mount Union created a campus liaison program to connect all undergraduate students with a Mount Union staff member who was not their advisor.

FALL 2020 RESPONSIBLE REOPENING

Mount Union developed a comprehensive plan for the beginning of the fall semester that provides details related to safety and changes in procedures, programming, and policies that have been implemented to align with Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's Responsible Restart Ohio.

The details of the plan can be viewed by visiting mountunion.edu/fall-2020-responsible-reopening.

DR. THOMAS BOTZMAN NAMED UNIVERSITY'S 13TH PRESIDENT

Dr. Thomas Botzman, who served as president of Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania from 2013-2020, began his official duties as president of Mount Union on July 1.

He and his wife, Vanessa, have returned to the Mount Union community they called home during his tenure as a faculty member and administrator from 1989 to 2004. He succeeds Dr. W. Richard Merriman, Jr., who concluded his service as president at the close of the 2019-2020 academic year.

“I have confidence that Dr. Botzman is the right leader for Mount Union at this time in our history,” said Matthew Darrah '84, chair of the Presidential Search Committee. “He brings with him an array of experience that complements the strategic direction of the University set forth by Dr. Merriman and the Board of Trustees. As a former Mount Union faculty member and administrator, he has a unique understanding of the institution’s strengths and opportunities. I fully expect him to hit the ground running and quickly prove himself an effective leader.”

“The Mount Union presidency appealed to me because I knew from my 15 years on the faculty how the strong academic and co-curricular programs supported the mission of preparing students for fulfilling lives,” said Botzman. “Further, recent years have witnessed the addition of strong healthcare and engineering programs in addition to the traditional liberal arts, business, and pre-professional programs. Mount Union is a strong institution that provides great value to students, families, and the local and regional community.”

During his service at Misericordia, a private institution of about 2,500 students, Botzman led many successful initiatives. Under his leadership, the institution undertook its largest fundraising campaign in history, raising more than \$35 million to date. Misericordia also renovated two academic buildings and acquired an adjacent property for future use by student life and academic programs.

“Vanessa and I felt so at home when we were at Mount Union and looked forward to coming back to the Purple Raiders. We were pleased when our daughter, Gabriela Botzman '17, chose to study elementary education at Mount Union, and we are thrilled to follow her lead back to Alliance.”

- Dr. Thomas Botzman



A native of Stow, Ohio, Botzman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Case Western Reserve University. He went on to attend Kent State University, where he earned both a Master of Arts degree in economics and a doctoral degree in business administration.

During his initial tenure at Mount Union, Botzman served as a business faculty member and was named the Great Teacher in 1998. He also directed international studies from 1993 to 1997 and held the role of associate academic dean during the 2003-2004 academic year. He was a visiting professor and Fulbright Scholar at the University of the Americas in Mexico City, Mexico, teaching there four times from 1992 to 1996. He was named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow in 2002.

“It was a pleasant surprise to find that not only were many of my treasured faculty and staff colleagues still at Mount Union, but that they have been joined by many of my former students as faculty, staff, trustees, and active alumni,” said Botzman.

KEHRESES DEPART FOOTBALL PROGRAM

For the first time since 1986, a Kehres will not be the head coach of the Mount Union football program.

Larry Kehres '71 retired from Mount Union after being involved with athletics at the institution for 45 years. He was named to the College Football Hall of Fame in 2017 and was ranked 28th on ESPN's list of the 150 Greatest Coaches in College Football History.

His .929 winning percentage is the highest in college football history, and he won 11 national championships during his tenure.

Vince Kehres '98 stepped down from his position as head coach upon accepting a position with the University of Toledo's football program. He was named defensive coordinator and linebackers coach and will work under head coach Jason Candle '03, who was a Purple Raider wide receiver and coach in the early 2000s.

Vince led Mount Union to seven NCAA playoff appearances, six Ohio Athletic Conference titles, and five national championship game appearances with two national titles. He is a three-time OAC Coach of the Year, three-time Lee Tressel Ohio College Coach of the Year, and the Columbus Dispatch Ohio College Coach of the Year.

Read more about several other notable Mount Union retirees and their more than 700 years of combined service by visiting mountunion.edu/2020-retirees.

KEHRESES BY THE NUMBERS:

- 13 national championships (Larry, 11; Vince, 2)
- Overall record of **427-30-3**
- Lost fewer games (**30**) than they have coached seasons (**34**)
- **31** Academic All-American selections from 1984-2018 (most by an OAC school)



DARTT '08 NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Geoff Dartt '08 has been named the head football coach at the University of Mount Union. He will be the 24th coach in school history and fourth since 1962.

He has spent seven years as an assistant coach for the Purple Raiders and five of those years as offensive coordinator.

In his five years as offensive coordinator, his unit has led the nation in nine different statistical categories, including scoring in three different seasons – most recently in 2019.

A native of Port Clinton, Ohio, Dartt was a three-year letter-winner as an offensive lineman at Mount Union. He was part of three national championship teams (2002, 2005, 2006) and was an All-Ohio Athletic Conference selection in 2007. He graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education.

From 2008-2012, he was an assistant football coach at Wheaton College. He came back to Mount Union in 2012 as offensive line coach and then became offensive coordinator from 2013-2016. In 2017, he was the offensive line coach at Western Kentucky University but returned to Mount Union in 2018 as an assistant coach and was named Ohio Athletic Conference Assistant Coach of the Year. In 2019, he became offensive coordinator again.



2020 OUTSTANDING SENIORS

Haley Crews '20, a sociology major of Wellsville, Ohio, and William Luca '20, a computer science, French, international affairs and diplomacy, and national security and foreign intelligence analysis quadruple major of Tallahassee, Florida, were named the Outstanding Seniors for 2020.

Crews was on the Dean's List all eight semesters and was the 2019 Homecoming Queen. She was the recipient of the 2019 Carl D. Orwick Fraternal Values Award, and the 2019 Outstanding Sorority Chapter President Award, and she was named the Outstanding Sorority Woman for 2019. She held leadership positions in Alpha Delta Pi, Emerging Leaders, Greek Leadership Institute, Kappa Kappa Psi, and the Mount Union Student Senate.

Luca was also named to the Dean's List all eight semesters and was the recipient of the Alumni Computer Science and Information Systems Prize, the International Student Travel Prize, and the Outstanding Fraternity Chapter President Award. He held leadership positions in Emerging Leaders, the Mount Union Student Senate, Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, and Sigma Iota Rho Honorary.

Other nominees included Logan Cooper '20, a sociology major of Cleveland, Ohio; Tobin Huffman '20, a biochemistry major of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; and James Novinc '20, a marketing and public relations double major of Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

DR. ANDY BAIN SELECTED AS 2020 GREAT TEACHER

Dr. Andy Bain, associate professor of sociology and criminal justice and director of criminal justice studies, was named the 2020 Great Teacher.

A member of the Mount Union faculty since 2013, Bain earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Portsmouth; a post-graduate diploma in psychology from the Open University, Milton Keynes, UK; a Master of Science degree in criminal justice studies from University of Portsmouth; and a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology/psychology from Southampton University.

One student nominator said, "Dr. Bain has been an incredible professor. He challenges his students on a daily basis. He has helped me figure out what I might want to do next along with helping me get the most gratifying internship I could imagine."



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Since the Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives Campaign kicked off its public phase during Alumni Weekend and Homecoming 2019, the University has received more than \$5 million in additional funds to support campaign initiatives. In conjunction with the *Compass 2021* strategic plan, this five-year, \$50 million-dollar comprehensive campaign currently stands at \$38.5 million, slightly surpassing the annual goal to reach \$35 million by June 30, 2020.

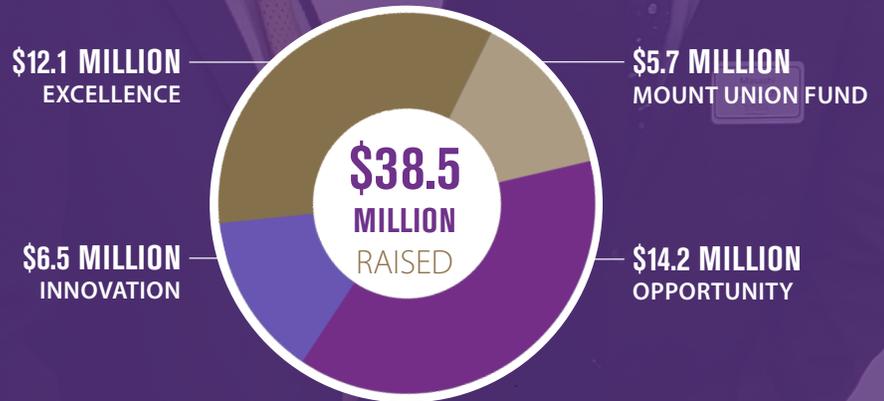
Addressing affordability is Mount Union's largest campaign priority. The cost of college, increasing student debt, and recent financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic pose significant barriers between deserving students and an exceptional education. With about one-third of Mount Union students eligible for the federal Pell Grant, which is designated for students with high financial need, scholarship support is critical.

Since the campaign launched in 2016, Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives has resulted in the creation of 53 new scholarships and raised more than \$14.1 million toward a \$25 million scholarship support goal. More support is needed, however, to keep a Mount Union education within reach of hardworking students and families.

CAMPAIGN GOAL



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS



Learn more about the Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives Campaign

mountunion.edu/inspire

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED:
53



POINTING NORTH

The Merriman/Green Years | 2015-2020



When Dick Merriman interviewed to be the president of the University of Mount Union, he quickly felt that he and his future boss understood one another. His boss in this instance was Allen Green '77, then chair-elect of the University's Board of Trustees and chair of the University's Presidential Search Committee. As Merriman recalls it, "We shared an approach to leadership that emphasized getting people involved in planning, listening to their ideas, getting their buy-in, and then moving forward together. Our values aligned."

During their first year as the University's leadership team, Merriman and Green led Mount Union through a participatory planning process that created the *Compass 2021 Strategic Plan*. The plan charts Mount Union's course forward as a comprehensive university that combines interdisciplinary learning in the liberal arts with career preparation, serving both undergraduate and graduate students by providing outstanding learning opportunities through both in-person and online instruction.

"Dick especially spent many hours listening to all of the constituents, making sure every person had a voice and part in planning our future. It was the most collaborative process in which I have ever participated, and I believe the results show it."

- Allen Green '77

on implementing shared governance

COMPASS 2021

MOUNT UNION'S STRATEGY TO LEAD, COLLABORATE, AND INNOVATE

Strategic Plan Initiatives:

Developing new academic programs

Meeting the needs of an increasingly-diverse student body

Leveraging technology

Branding Mount Union as a remarkable Midwestern institution

Focusing on affordability

Creating a collaborative workplace culture

(l-r) Allen Green '77, Carol (Howlett '76) Green, Margot Kelman, and Dick Merriman

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Mount Union has continued its academic success during the past five years while introducing new programs to meet the needs of the ever-changing student population. Significant additions to the academic curriculum include:

Graduate Programs:

- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Fully-online Master of Education
 - Athletic Coaching
 - Curriculum and Instruction
 - Educational Leadership
 - Ohio Principal Licensure
- Master of Business Administration*
 - Business Analytics
 - Innovation and Leadership

*Pending appropriate approvals

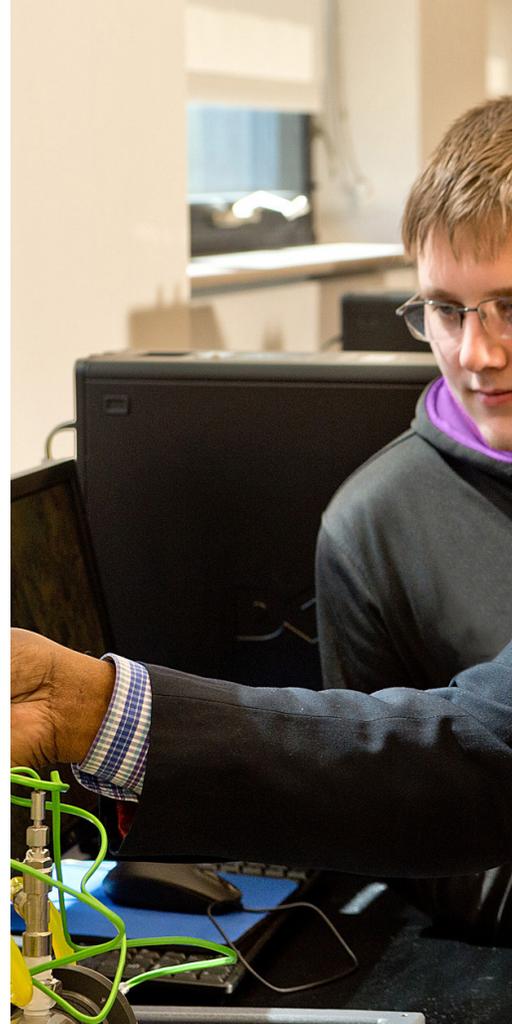
Undergraduate programs:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Leadership Studies (*minor*)
- Risk Management and Insurance
- Second-degree Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Sustainability (*minor*)

Summer Session Flexibility

Mount Union has dramatically expanded its summer school online offerings and taken a leadership role in the Acadeum College Consortium network through which participating schools share online courses, permitting students at Mount and other colleges and universities to continue their progress toward a degree.

 **LEARN MORE** mountunion.edu/academics



DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

Mount Union continues to expand the diversity of the student body and improve the ways it serves the needs of students of diverse backgrounds. Diversity not only includes characteristics like race, ethnicity, and gender, but also age, career goals, preferred modes of learning, different learning abilities and styles, and so on.

Key highlights:

- Doubled the graduate student population to more than 200 students
- Increased racial diversity on campus and developed partnerships with urban school districts for diverse student pathways to success
- Enhanced support for transfer and commuter students (named to the Phi Kappa Theta 2020 Transfer Honor Roll)
- Added new co-curricular programs in competitive cheer and dance, esports, and men's volleyball

 **LEARN MORE** mountunion.edu/diversity-and-inclusion



RECOGNIZING DR. MARGOT KELMAN

From the moment the family stepped onto campus, Dr. Margot Kelman immersed herself in community endeavors and hands-on interaction with students and community members.

Her important work as the board chair of the Early Childhood Education Alliance was noteworthy in helping contribute to increased childhood literacy in Alliance.

Margot will look to continue her work in speech pathology upon the couple's move to North Carolina.



"I still remember first meeting Dr. Merriman as a student during his campus interviews. He was the only candidate who answered my question about student diversity, and I have not been disappointed with the initiatives he has put in place."

- **Callie Flonnoy '15**

Assistant to the President for Community Engagement and Alumni Relations

"Thank you so much for your willingness to help our community, support service projects, and continuously give back. Your leadership with ECEA has been tremendous, and we cannot thank you enough for all you have done to make the organization thrive."

- **Abby (Honaker '11) Schroeder**

Director of the Regula Center for Public Service

"Whether it was a yoga session, a writer's group meeting, or an event at the Haupt House, Margot seamlessly became part of the fabric of Mount Union, bringing a positive outlook and sincere participation."

- **Dr. Lori Kumler**

Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies



TECHNOLOGY | BRANDING

Even before the University took a crash course in remote learning, it had been taking important steps forward in the use of technology to support teaching, learning, and University operations. The institution has also made significant progress in its use of technology to brand Mount Union as the remarkable Midwestern institution that it has become.

Key highlights:

- Moved the Master of Education degree into a fully-online format
- Doubled the number of summer courses
- Utilized Starfish software to support student retention
- Launched a brand new Mount Union website and online alumni directory
- Expanded recruiting footprint, with admitted students from Pennsylvania doubling
- Increased social media following by 67% since 2017

GOVERNANCE AND WORKPLACE CULTURE

Merriman and Green both recognized that nimbleness, creativity, and collaboration are essential for the continued health of the University. They went to work, with assistance from faculty, administrators, staff, and trustees, to articulate shared governance and lay out clearly the roles of each group in various domains.

Key highlights:

- Strengthened leadership development and succession processes in the Board of Trustees
- Developed a Faculty Senate through the work of the faculty
- Put an intellectual property policy and process in place, supporting faculty research and development of patent applications by faculty and students
- Launched a new academic structure with three colleges and founding deans
- Established a new academic systems unit to support online instruction and continuing education programs



“From taking true interest in the culture and morale of this institution and care-filled steps to improve that, to innovative programs and a continued focus on institutional health, I’m not sure we could have asked for much more from a president.”

- Jesse Cunion

Assistant Dean for Student Success



“Dick listened carefully, asked questions to gain understanding, made the decision, asked for feedback, and then communicated his reasoning in the most eloquent manner. I learned so much from him, but his communication style is the best with which I’ve ever had the chance to work. I always felt confident that Dick was heading us in the right direction. **That is what excellent leaders do.**”

- Allen Green '77

FOCUS ON AFFORDABILITY

Mount Union has continued to address college affordability and make its education accessible to students of all backgrounds. Through initiatives that have adapted to students’ ever-changing needs, and generous gifts from alumni and friends, the past five years have shown the strength of the Mount Union community and its commitment to students.

Key highlights:

- The President’s Rescue Fund was established to help Mount Union students in need cross the finish line to graduation. It was recently named in honor of Drs. Merriman and Kelman.
- Raiders Give was established and has raised more than \$950,000 in three years. Read more on page 21.
- The Mount Union Pell Opportunity Grant was established, meeting the cost of tuition and fees for qualified students.



LEARN MORE

mountunion.edu/scholarships-and-grants





INSPIRATION THROUGH INTERFAITH INCLUSIVITY

As an institution founded on the Christian tradition and the understanding of an education grounded in the liberal arts, Mount Union's quest for religious growth and understanding is nearly 175 years in the making.

Over the course of the past five years, Mount Union has made great strides in making interfaith learning a focal point on campus. Interfaith cooperation is defined by the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) as, "...a process in which people who orient around religion differently come together in ways that respect different identities, build mutually inspiring relationships, and engage in common action around issues of shared concern."

Not only is that definition an ideological parallel to the mission of the institution focusing on responsible citizenship, it is becoming increasingly necessary as Mount Union welcomes students from a variety of backgrounds across the world.

Earning Program Funding

To move Mount Union forward in its interfaith endeavors and efforts to support students' diverse spiritual explorations, Mount Union's religious studies program has led the way in garnering more than \$50,000 in grant funding over the last four years. As a result of receiving generous funding from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) and the IFYC, the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies has been able to offer a variety of programming to the campus and surrounding communities.

The first of two NetVUE grants in 2017-2018 supported faculty exploration of vocation and purpose and the development of vocation-related classroom learning activities. The second grant, spanning 2019-2021, supports vocational exploration across the institution, including the development of a two-credit course called The Quest for a Purposeful Life, vocation retreats, subsidized internships with social-service and faith-based agencies, vocation-related programming in the Honors Program, additional faculty development, and other programming.

The IFYC grants funded four interfaith dinners that took place in 2017 and included members of the faculty, staff, and student body from a variety of backgrounds who discussed religious texts and personal experiences around the theme shared value.

They also helped fund a series of "Lunch and Learn" events with which approximately 140 members of the Mount Union community were involved. Additionally, it helped create two student-organized events in an Interfaith Fair and an Interfaith Forum, during which more than 120 students had open discussions with peers from different religious backgrounds and affiliations.

Last but not least, the most recent IFYC grant focused on the Mount Union alumni population. In May 2019, an alumni interfaith panel was hosted on campus featuring five alumni speakers discussing interfaith issues in professional settings, with an ongoing video interview project in the works. The



Dr. Niki Johnson, professor of philosophy and religious studies, displays a copy of her new book, *Faithful Witness in a Fractured World: Models for an Authentic Christian Life*, which discusses inclusivity, care, and compassion for all people.

alumni involved were Mario Calandros '05, Theresa Davis '95, Scott Harrison '78, David Jones '62, Tammy Mierzwa '03, and Abby (Weingart '11) Vallandingham.

Campus Life

Aside from the grant-funded events, Mount Union's students have been increasingly active in generating interfaith awareness across campus. Along with Mount Union employees, students have participated in the IFYC's Interfaith Leadership Institute during the past three years, bringing knowledge back to campus constituents. Some of these ideas led to the founding of the Student Interfaith Alliance, a student group dedicated to discussing interfaith issues and initiatives.

"Students are interested in matters of spirituality and faith, though they often don't frame it in those terms," said University Chaplain Rev. Kyle Woodrow. "This means that they want to address issues of faith in their own way. The Interfaith Alliance is a student-founded organization that is trying to stimulate some conversations and service around shared values and the faith that motivates people, whether that is faith in divinity or humanity."

Students have also had the opportunity to go on several religious site visits, gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the multi-faith environment that exists at Mount Union. They have participated in faculty-led research about the role of faith in the lives of individuals, as well as service-learning done at locations like the Alliance Catholic Worker.

Moving Forward

As many are aware, Mount Union's Board of Trustees voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church (UMC) in May of 2019 as a result of its stance on human sexuality. This decision was made to continue to fulfill the institution's historical and current commitment to welcome and support all who wish to be involved with Mount Union.

Following that decision, the Committee on Mission and Ministry was formed to help determine the future direction of Mount Union's Methodist affiliation while honoring its commitment to interfaith appreciation. As a result, the insti-



Students play a significant role in raising awareness for interfaith practices on campus. One of the ways this is done is through service-learning in which students like the ones pictured above have participated. Below are the spiritual life organizations committed to sharing that understanding at Mount Union:

- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- The Edge
- For Love of Christ the King (FLOCK)
- Kappa Phi
- OASIS
- Student Interfaith Alliance

tution has applied to join the new North American Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, which was created as a result of the church's decision and accepts members who are not directly affiliated with the UMC.

"The University remains committed to being a place where faith is valued and nurtured," said Dr. Susan Haddox, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and member of the aforementioned committee. "We left the denomination because of its position on human sexuality, which contradicted our commitment to inclusivity and equality. However, we continue to affirm the active pursuit of a just world and education for all in the context of a Wesleyan/Methodist ethos."

The department's faculty continue to emphasize the importance of vocation and sense of purpose in the world, which is often driven by faith. Combining this ideal with interfaith understanding, two new courses — Interreligious Understanding and Religious Diversity in America — have been developed.

As the institution continues to be more culturally aware, Mount Union's interfaith efforts are an important part of its continuing commitment to inclusivity.



The Interfaith Fairs on campus allowed students to have open discussions about different faiths and backgrounds. These were funded as a result of grant money from the Interfaith Youth Core.

**Claudia Harris '21
and Jester**

Delaware, Ohio

B.S., Civil Engineering

University of Mount Union

**CAMPUS
JESTER**

Service dog in-training brought
joy to the campus community

{BY MAGGIE O'DONNELL '20}

A new addition to Raider Nation in 2019-2020 was Jester, a one-year-old Labrador and Golden Retriever mix. Jester's trainer, and current Mount Union student, is Claudia Harris '21, a civil engineering major from Delaware, Ohio.

Jester and Harris were paired through an organization called Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), which specializes in providing highly-trained service dogs to people with disabilities. Harris received Jester when he was two-months old and will raise and train him until he is 18-months old.

Harris said she was first introduced to CCI when her mom started volunteering with the organization.

"I loved its mission, and I was inspired by how service dogs could increase a person's independence so much," said Harris.

When Harris decided to get involved with the organization, she knew the biggest hurdle would be getting approved to have the dog with her – both in her residence hall and in the classroom. The Office of Student Accessibility was supportive and accommodating with Harris after understanding her motivation and dedication.

She says that CCI has certain requirements like crate training, which alleviates many of the common worries and concerns regarding having a dog on campus. Harris explained that Jester is being trained to assist with practical tasks, including turning light switches on and off, opening doors, pulling wheelchairs, picking up items that are dropped, and providing unconditional love and acceptance.

"Every day started with Jester and me waking up at 6 a.m., going outside, and eating breakfast," said Harris, discussing how her days as a residential student revolved around Jester



CANINE COMPANIONS
FOR INDEPENDENCE®

"I loved their mission and I was inspired by how service dogs could increase a person's independence so much."

- Claudia Harris on Canine Companions for Independence

prior to COVID-19. "We would go on an hour-long walk, and then Jester would usually take a nap while I would get homework done or go to class. Jester came to most of my classes but occasionally stayed in my room when I believed the environment would be too stressful for him or myself and I wouldn't be able to focus on him properly."

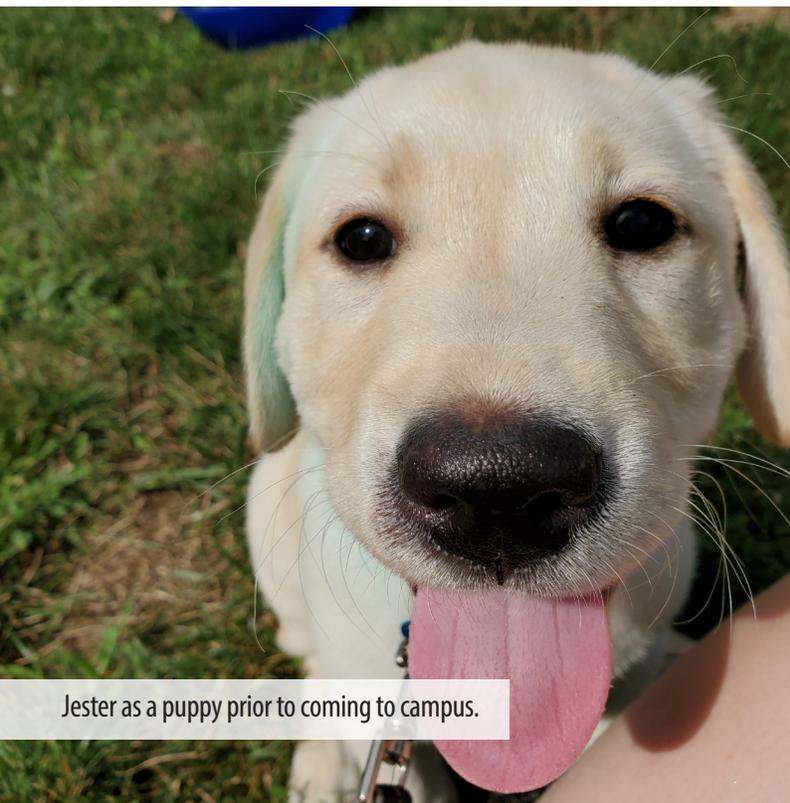
Not only is Harris involved in a rigorous major, but she is also a tutor and involved in Alpha Phi Omega, the service fraternity on campus. Harris says that Jester has helped her busy schedule by motivating her to get things done when the time allows.

"Before having Jester, I struggled to get things done when I didn't feel like doing them," Harris said. "I would avoid items on my to-do list because I knew I could find another time to do it. Jester rules my schedule now, so when I have the free time to do homework, volunteer, or work, I take advantage of it, because it may be the only time I get to do those things!"

While training a dog to be a pet is a challenging task alone, teaching a dog to be of service can be quite complicated – especially while being a college student. However, Jester and Harris make a great team and have been warmly welcomed by the Mount Union community.



WANT MORE? See the video of Claudia and Jester training on campus by visiting youtu.be/kVn8T7dveLc



Jester as a puppy prior to coming to campus.

SUPERSTARS in Scrubs

Mount Union nursing alumni share their stories while on the frontlines of the novel coronavirus battle

1. Allison Baird '19

Coronary ICU Nurse, Cleveland Clinic

“The professors are the reason why I’m the nurse I am today. I am always and forever grateful for the opportunities at Mount Union... I think the most significant way the pandemic has impacted my career is watching patients not being allowed to see their loved ones. In my unit, hard decisions are made every day about code status, goals of care are discussed, and hard decisions are made about the patients’ lives.”

2. Sabrina Ochoa '19

RN, Cleveland Clinic Akron General

“Mount Union nursing helped me get where I wanted to be and set me up in my career for life!... My unit has expanded its beds into another unit, which we now staff due to the high influx of cardiac patients during this time. We have been working very hard to keep high spirits and help one another out.”

3. Bryanna Aldrich '19

RN, Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital ICU

“Caring for COVID-19 patients has impacted the way we provide care for our patients. With a no-visitation policy in place at the hospital, it has made it more difficult for patients and families to cope with their diagnoses. It has become

even more important for us as nurses to be there for the patients, but also to keep family informed to provide them with a sense of security as well.”

4. Alex Wesely '19

RN, Duke University Hospital

“Mount Union taught me how to grow from challenges. Nursing school was extremely difficult, but it contributed immensely to my growth as a young professional... Since so many of our patients are immunocompromised, we don’t see any COVID-19 patients. Due to many of our surgeries being somewhat elective, our census has been low, which has led to me being canceled or floated to different units for one of my three shifts a week.”

5. Katie Vance '18

RN, Cleveland Clinic Main Campus

“The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted my workplace in many different ways. In my undergraduate academic career, material was covered regarding pandemics and what happens when public health emergencies occur. It has been crazy to observe what I learned in the classroom at Mount and see it applied in a real-life setting.”

6. Dana Lautenschlager '18

RN-MICU, Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital

“As usual, I was nervous to take the NCLEX exam, but I felt as though the Mount Union nursing program prepared me so well... COVID-19 has had a huge



impact on our unit. We have large numbers of coronavirus cases in our unit. All of us have been required to take classes on proning [moving patients onto their stomachs] although we're all rock stars at it now because it is something that has been used so much to help the lungs of some of the more advanced COVID cases."

7. Sydney Moats '19
RN, Aultman Hospital

"The pandemic we are facing has brought many changes to the healthcare system, and new changes are happening daily, sometimes multiple revisions to policies within hours. The most obvious change that would be seen by the public is the use of masks through an entire 12-hour shift."

8. Hadleigh (Rundell '17) Douglas,
Critical Care RN, Knox Community Hospital

"I am pleased to still keep in contact with most of the nursing professors years after graduation... The COVID-19 pandemic has increased workloads for many people in the hospital setting. My work, due to the pandemic has included surge planning in preparation for the hospital to accommodate higher-than-usual patient volumes."

9. Jason Hadley '19
RN, Akron Children's Hospital

"The thing that I loved most about the nursing program at Mount is the relationships I made with classmates. We became a family during our four years... It has been hard to be apart from my family and friends, but I try to focus on what a blessing it is that my family is healthy during this time. My coworkers are always willing to lend a helping hand, and I go to work knowing I am part of an amazing team."

10. Hailee Ellinwood '17
RN, UH Hospitals, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

"I feel that Mount Union helped shape me into who I am today. The nursing program was well designed and prepared me for the NCLEX... Pediatrics does not include a patient population that appears to be heavily affected by the coronavirus. In my unit, we have not been affected by the virus itself, but we have been affected due to low census and canceling elective surgical cases."

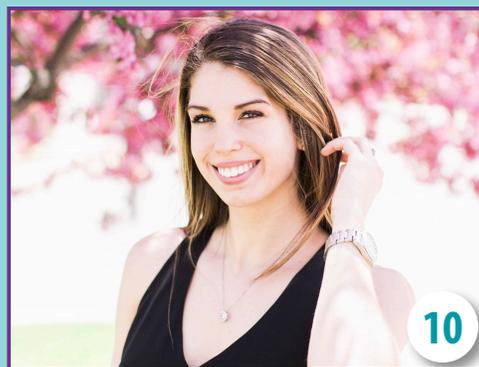
11. Annie Zielasko '19
ICU RN, Akron City Hospital

"I loved being a part of nursing at Mount Union. I learned so much from the

simulations and labs... This pandemic has impacted our work greatly. Having to wear the proper personal protective equipment while providing patient care is essential. Our floor has become the ICU overflow to provide enough rooms for all of our COVID (+) or rule out COVID patient population. All of our employees are struggling, but we are overcoming the situation by working together as a team."

12. Joshua Lock '18
RN, Akron Children's Hospital

"Throughout my journey through the nursing program at Mount Union, I most enjoyed the 'family' of which I was a part. I had great clinical experiences and fantastic clinical instructors to guide me... Working within a pediatric facility, I have received many, many hours of education, simulations, and literature not only on the pediatric patient but also on adult patients suffering from COVID-19. My favorite aspect of my job is going home after my shift knowing I impacted a child's life — being a small impact of comfort, or a life-changing impact during their illness."



CLASS NOTES

Class Notes to be included in the Fall/Winter 2020 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before October 31, 2020.

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

1950s

Eleanor (Meacham '50) Broscoe of Calgary, Alberta, Canada recently celebrated her 90th birthday.



1970s

Patricia "Tish" (McNeil '70) Biggs of Fishers, Indiana was given the Andrus Award for Community Service by the AARP of Indiana. The award is given to one person per state and is AARP's most prestigious volunteer tribute.



Jerry Cope '75 has joined the Cleveland Museum of Natural History as director of operations.



Merrideth and William '71 Gough enjoyed their travels and showed their Purple Raider pride.

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.



Jeffrey Patter '78 of Dublin, Ohio recently joined Ulmer & Berne LLP's Business Law Practice Group.



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.

1990s

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.

Ann Shields '91, Vickie (Olin) Thewes, Gwyn (Thomas '91) Lowe, Traci (Geraci '92) Miller, and Rita (Mills '91) Gasser gathered in Florida and recreated a photo from 1991.



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.

Quickly, 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) Lasonde was the recipient of a series of awards and accomplishments at Minnesota State University Mankato; Outstanding Under-



graduate Mentor Award, SBS's Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor Award, Pedagogical Innovation Award, and the prestigious Walter D. Mink Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award given out by the Minnesota Psychological Association. Most recently, she received the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Scholarship.

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



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.



rapidly expanding multimedia company Ya 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**.

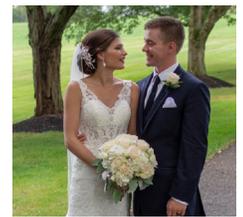


Megan McMinn '15 and Chris Betts were married October 5, 2019.

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.



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.

William Hamlin '45 of Sebring, Ohio passed away January 6, 2020.

Robert Hines '46 of Minerva, Ohio and spouse of the late **Jean (McCready '46) Hines**, passed away May 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**.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE



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 disrup-

tions, 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.

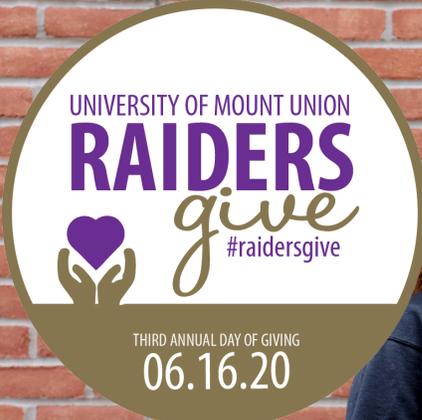
Our Alumni Association committee structure has been transformed, and we're always looking for additional alumni to offer their perspectives, thoughts, and support. I'd especially like to extend a welcome to our alumni family to the Class of 2020! Our ties with Mount Union remain forever, and I encourage 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.

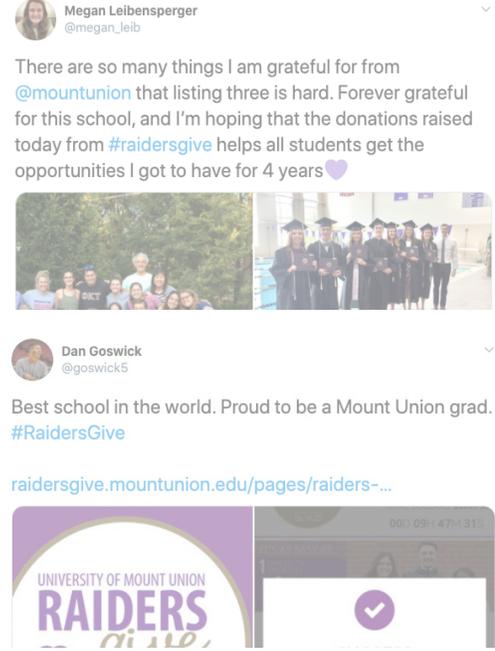
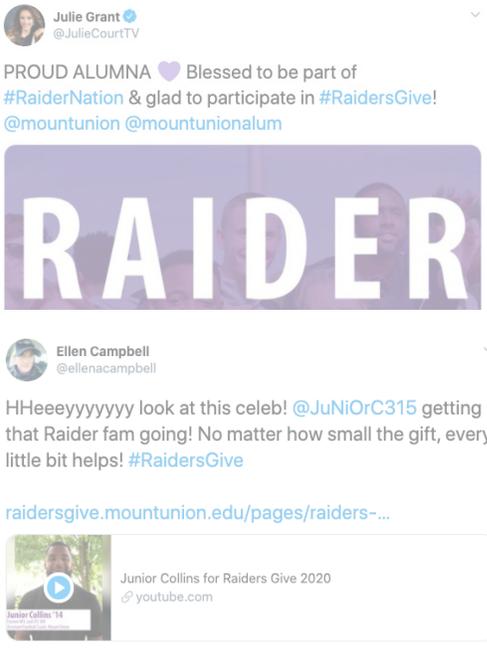
I look forward to you joining us this fall for our virtual Alumni Week 2020! Many of the traditional activities, such as a message from the president, recognition of our alumni award recipients, class and reunions, and much more will be part of this unique celebration. Coming together, even virtually, 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



THIRD ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING
06.16.20



199
FACULTY AND STAFF DONORS

CLASS OF 2018
HIGHEST PARTICIPATION (41)

119
PARENT AND FAMILY DONORS

193
YOUNG ALUMNI DONORS



OCTOBER 4-10

mountunion.edu/alumni



Virginia (Parrish '44) Jordan of Westerville, Ohio passed away May 13, 2020.

Charles Krekas '49 of Bellevue, Washington passed away November 6, 2019.

Amel James Newmyer, Jr. '46 of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away February 17, 2020.

Janet (Jones '47) Spencer of North Fort Myers, Florida and Lakeside, Ohio passed away January 4, 2020.

Eileen (Klass '49) Taylor of Melbourne, Florida passed away March 16, 2019.

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

1950s

Wayne Amos '56 of Dayton, Ohio passed away May 24, 2020.

Paul Antram '58 of Wayne, Pennsylvania passed away April 26, 2020.

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.

MaryJane (Jepson '50) Cameron of Forest, Virginia passed away April 4, 2020.

James Chang '57 of Stamford, Connecticut passed away December 3, 2019.

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.

Arthur Murray Cunningham '57 of Homeworth, Ohio passed away July 15, 2020.

Jacquelyn (Weiser '52) Cunningham of Schofield, Wisconsin passed away on July 6, 2020.

Shirley (Robb '52) Dubetz of Kent, Ohio passed away April 2, 2020.

Edward DiGregorio '51 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away April 5, 2020.

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

Robert Gempler '50 of Alliance, Ohio passed away July 21, 2020.

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

Stephen Griebing '54 of Akron, Ohio passed away March 20, 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.

Earl Kilchenman '50 of Canton, Ohio passed away May 28, 2020. Earl was the significant other of the late **Shirley (Robb '52) Dubetz**.

Robert Klinger '59 of North Canton, Ohio passed away May 14, 2020.

Velma (Anderson '56) Linear of Alliance, Ohio passed away October 22, 2019.

Henry Mattes '50 of Canton, Ohio passed away December 1, 2019.

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

Timothy McLeod '56 of Alliance, Ohio passed away January 21, 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.

Deuward "Dewey" Patrick '59 of Hanover, Pennsylvania, spouse of **Colleen (McCaw '61) Patrick**, passed away November 20, 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.

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

Robert Todoroff '50 of Belleville, Illinois passed away November 24, 2019.

Emmor "Fritz" Snyder '51 of Girard, Ohio passed away April 10, 2020.

1960s

Evan Adams '61 of Opelika, Alabama, spouse of **Bonita (Miller '62) Adams**, passed away November 13, 2019.

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.

Joyce (Romig '66) Capobianco of The Woodlands, Texas passed away July 6, 2020.

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

William Davis '61 of Estero, Florida passed away January 18, 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.

Karen (Anderson '69) Jones of North Canton, Ohio and spouse of **David Jones '62**, passed away May 19, 2020.

Richard Kekic '68 of Dumfries, Virginia passed away November 17, 2019.

Charles Kovach, Jr. '62 of Bella Vista, Arkansas passed away March 26, 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.

Joyce (Pease '68) Nelson of Carbondale, Illinois passed away February 13, 2020.

Thomas Otto '64 of Gainesville, Florida, spouse of **Anna (Glassburn '64) Otto**, passed away January 26, 2018.

Jeffrey Phillips '68 of North Canton, Ohio passed away October 28, 2019.

Ronald Ross '65 of Tampa, Florida, spouse of **Margaret (McGee '66) Ross**, passed away February 7, 2020.

Eudoxia "Vivi" (Efklidou '65) Samoladas of Bronxville, New York passed away December 21, 2019.

Jerry Schroeder '68 of Sebring, Ohio passed away March 7, 2020.

Judith (Lechleitner '61) Speer of Alliance, Ohio, spouse of **Robert Speer '60**, passed away March 21, 2020.

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.

Mount Union Employees

Gerald Conrad

Gerald Conrad of Alliance, Ohio passed away May 3, 2020. He worked in the Office of Information Technology for 10 years.

Dr. DeBow Freed

Dr. DeBow Freed of Findlay, Ohio passed away February 8, 2020. He served as the Dean of Mount Union from 1969-1974.



After his tenure at Mount Union, Freed went on to serve as president of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois, where he served for another five years.

He then became president of Ohio Northern University for 20 years and later served as President of the University of Findlay for seven years.

Vallie Hawkins

Vallie Hawkins of Canton, Ohio passed away May 2, 2020.

Nichon Jakuszewski

Nichon Jakuszewski of Green, Ohio passed away November 18, 2019. She was a former adjunct in the Department of Music.

Patricia "Pat" Markley

Patricia "Pat" Markley of Alliance, Ohio passed away December 11, 2019. Pat worked as a government documents assistant in the library until she retired in 1995.

She was the spouse of Dr. Bill Markley, who taught mathematics from 1956-1995 and was also the mother of **Anne (Markley '77) Case**, **Susan (Markley '77) Reany**, **Amy (Markley '91) Jones**, and William Markley.

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.

Richard Gay '70 of Milan, Michigan passed away November 7, 2019.

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

1970s

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

Robert Snyder '71 of Geneva, Ohio passed away June 24, 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

Taylor Phillips '13 of Winona, Ohio passed away on June 29, 2020.

Mackenzie David Stone '11 of Montville, Ohio passed away May 29, 2020.

Friends

Marling Abel of Greenville, South Carolina and spouse of Dona McConnell, passed away May 19, 2020.

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.

Norma (Stanley) Coudert of Orlando, Florida passed away January 23, 2020.

Paula (Rhodes) Denton of Woodbridge, Virginia passed away July 9, 2020.

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**.

Timothy Goulding of Cary, North Carolina passed away December 11, 2019.

Annie (Kirksey) Grimes of Akron, Ohio formerly of Alliance, Ohio passed away May 31, 2020.

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

William Holly of Rochester, New York passed away October 4, 2019.

Harold "Ralph" Jones of Dayton, Ohio passed away April 22, 2020.

Joan Kocher of Canton, Ohio and spouse of **David Kocher '70**, passed away April 3, 2020.

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.

Lora Mae Slabaugh of Alliance, Ohio passed away January 31, 2020.

Gladys (Noling) Stanfield of Sebring, Ohio passed away March 29, 2020.

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**.

Generosity Inspired

Donors Make an Impact on Students Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Imani Elkins '21 is known by many as a “bright light” in the Mount Union community. But Imani’s light dimmed this past spring when COVID-19 turned her world upside down.

On top of transitioning to living and learning remotely, Imani worried about how she would afford groceries, pay her bills, and buy books for her summer courses.

“I am my main source of financial support, and COVID-19 made getting a job difficult. I work for the University, and the virus put a complete halt on my employment. My mom’s employer eliminated overtime and gave each employee alternating days to work, which put a big dent in her pay.”

On June 16 — Raiders Give 2020 — 1,014 Purple Raiders stepped up and contributed \$493,306 to the Mount Union Fund. Behind the scenes on Mount’s third annual giving day, Trustee Jack Peters and his wife Madge made a lead gift toward the Student Emergency Fund to help support students like Imani during tough economic times.

The Peters’ leadership inspired the Mount Union community to collectively give more than \$175,000 toward the Student Emergency Fund in just 24 hours. The University of Mount Union’s Student Emergency Fund was established by The Mount Union Fund earlier this year in an effort to provide much-needed support for the many students, like Imani, facing financial challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Major: Intervention Specialist

Minor: Criminal Justice

Hometown: Fremont, Ohio

Involvement: Cheerleading, Assistant Resident Director, Sister Circle Board, Black Student Union

Imani is extremely grateful for the support she received from alumni and friends, like Jack and Madge Peters, who contributed to the fund.

“It takes a village, and I consider these donors a part of my village. Their support is truly a blessing, and I’m thankful that they believed in me and my education, without ever meeting me.”

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



Your gift every year makes a difference every day.

ALUMNI.MOUNTUNION.EDU/GIVING



mountunion.edu

1972 Clark Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601



Refer a
FUTURE RAIDER

Encourage college-bound students to visit campus,
or help us reach out to them at admission.mountunion.edu/register/refer-a-student

For more information on in-person or
virtual admission campus
visit events, go to

**mountunion.edu/
visit-campus**