SPRING/SUMMER 2016

CHAMPIONS IN THE FIELD

Alumni excel in the Sport Business Arena
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 Pam Neebold, director of human resources and employee development, Beeghly Hall, (330) 829-6560, neebp@mountunion.edu.
Did Dick Merriman discuss Mount Union's history of success, the challenges facing the institution and his ideas for the University's future path? Yes, Merriman discussed Mount Union's history of success, the challenges facing the institution and his ideas for the University's future path. He emphasized the need for Mount Union to continue to innovate and adapt to meet the demands of the future, while also maintaining its core values of education, service, and community engagement. Merriman highlighted the importance of the University's faculty and administrative colleagues, who are eager to share their stories about the University's life-changing impact and to follow its progress with great passion and interest. He also recognized the institution's alumni and friends, who are very committed to the success of Mount Union and who offer an inspiring example of outstanding philanthropic support for the University. Merriman also acknowledged the University's Board of Trustees, who provide vision and counsel for today and tomorrow. He concluded by expressing his excitement about what the University can achieve next.
INFORMATIVE POLITICAL EVENTS HOSTED AT THE UNIVERSITY THIS SPRING

Mount Union hosted political speakers on campus this spring in an effort to inform students of the importance of their political voice and to provide learning opportunities for the Mount Union community.

The events started with Chuck Todd, NBC News political director and host of "Meet the Press" and "MTP Daily," delivering the University’s Schooler Lecture. In his presentation, Todd encouraged audience members to involve themselves in order to renew widespread interest in public service.

Dr. Jack DeSario, professor of political science and director of the legal studies program at Mount Union, presented a UMU Experts speech titled "The 2016 Elections: The Demise of the Republican and Democratic Parties?"

Mount Union also hosted a symposium titled "The Barack Obama Presidency: Legacy and Record" in conjunction with The Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at The University of Akron, on campus at Mount Union. Guest speakers presented on different aspects of President Obama’s presidency. Speakers included Jenna Bryanton, White House associate director of content for the Office of Digital Strategy; Don Gonyea, NPR national political correspondent; Zack Space, former U.S. representative for Ohio’s 18th Congressional District and Ambassador (ret.) David Swartz, former ambassador and First U.S. Envoy to the Republic of Belarus.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES AT MOUNT UNION GATEWAY

Progress continues to be made at the Mount Union Gateway located across from campus on State Street. DeHoff Development Company and Alliance Ventures are partners in the shopping center. Georgio’s Pizza is now open, joining Farmer’s National Bank, Buffalo Wild Wings, Papa Gyrö’s restaurant, T-Mobile and Orange Leaf Yogurt. In addition, Four Kids Coffee is expected to open later this year. Four Kids Coffee is a family-run coffee shop featuring various healthy food options, including a gluten-free and vegan menu.

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

On October 30, the University of Mount Union announced the approval of a Doctor of Physical Therapy (PT) program by the Institutional Actions Committee of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Following the program’s approval, the University began accepting applications for the inaugural class to begin in fall 2016 (pending further appropriate approvals).

The PT program at Mount Union is structured with the mission of preparing responsive doctors of physical therapy to utilize evidence and practices for lifelong service to patients, the community and society. Relationships with the Alliance community and local area hospitals, plus new state-of-the-art science facility Gallaher Hall, will help the new PT program at Mount Union thrive.

MOUNT UNION NURSING PROGRAM RECEIVES CCNE ACCREDITATION

"Accreditation is a rigorous process that Mount Union chose to obtain for its BSN program," said Dr. Nezam Al-Niass, professor and chair of the Department of Nursing. “Mount Union believes in quality programs and obtaining and maintaining accreditation is one way of assuring the quality in those programs.”

MICHELLE LOCKHART SUNDSTROM NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Michelle Lockhart Sundstrom was named vice president for enrollment management at the University of Mount Union, effective February 1, 2016.

Prior to coming to Mount Union, Sundstrom served as the associate director of client development for Buffalo Noel Levitz, a higher education consulting firm located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Previously, she served as director of enrollment management for the school of professional and extended studies at American University in Washington, D.C.; senior strategic enrollment consultant for TWG Plus in Alexandria, Virginia; and in increasingly responsible enrollment management positions at both Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri.

Sundstrom earned an Associate of Arts degree from Highland Community College in Highland, Kansas, a Bachelor of Science degree in business with an emphasis in marketing from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas and a Master of Science degree in higher education administration from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

RAIDERS WIN OAC TITLES

Raider athletic teams brought home Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) titles last season:

- Men’s and women’s indoor track won their OAC meets at Marietta College.
- Men’s outdoor track and field claimed their sixth straight OAC title.
- Women’s outdoor track and field won its 7th straight OAC title.
- Women’s cross country won its third straight OAC title.
- Women’s golf won its second-ever OAC title and made its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance.
- Women’s basketball won the 2016 OAC Women’s Basketball Tournament for the fifth time in school history and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.
- Women’s swimming and diving won its second straight OAC title at the 2016 OAC Swimming and Diving Championships.
- Football won its 24th straight and 27th overall OAC title and its 12th Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl National Championship.

MOUNT UNION, STARK STATE SIGN ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

In December, Dick Merriman, president of Mount Union, and Dr. Para (Heropoulos ’77) Jones, president of Stark State, signed the first of several agreements that allow Stark State graduates with associate degrees to further their education and earn a bachelor’s degree at Mount Union. Stark State graduates can pursue degrees in psychology, civil, mechanical engineering, biology, early childhood intervention specialist, early childhood education and national security and foreign intelligence analysis.

“This is truly a mutually beneficial situation for Mount Union and Stark State,” said Merriman. “Stark State can give its students a pre-defined option to further their education and it brings good students to Mount Union who have already proven themselves at the college level.”

According to Dr. Raymond Posey, associate academic dean and professor in residence of management and finance, who is coordinating the effort on behalf of Mount Union, a typical associate’s degree program at Stark State requires completion of 60 credit hours. Mount Union requires 128 hours for a bachelor’s degree, so a student with an associate’s degree working toward a bachelor’s degree will have an additional 68 credit hours to complete.
WHERE LEGENDS ARE BORN
The 2016 Games of the Olympiad, commonly called the Summer Olympics, will be held from August 4 – 22 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Throughout the spring and early summer, each Olympic sport will choose its team and athletes during the Olympic trials or other qualifying method. Interestingly, for many athletes, making an Olympic team is more important than winning an Olympic medal. The reality is that few athletes actually have a chance to earn an Olympic medal. However, once an athlete is selected to compete, that person will forever be known and introduced as an Olympian, no matter their performance in the Olympic Games. This realization struck me while working at the 1980 Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene, Oregon. (Note: Eugene will also host the 2016 Track and Field Olympic Trials.)

I was asked to be the business manager for the 1980 Olympic track and field team and travel with the team while representing the USA track and field federation. As such, I was able to witness firsthand the emotion of the athletes when they finished in the top three of their event and the joy they felt by making the Olympic team. Subsequently, being in the room where the newly-selected Olympians were processed for their Olympic credentials and given their Olympic uniforms was such a memorable experience for everyone there, especially the athletes. Forever an Olympian!

NOW OR NEVER
One aspect that has become more well-known recently is the psychological preparation athletes experience before the Olympics. Of course all performers, athletes or not, prepare mentally for their performances. However, what is unique about the Olympics is that they are only held every four years. For many, it is now or never! And the consequences of that one competition are huge.

This struck me as I was having dinner with the top USA decathlete after a competition in Berlin, Germany in 1980. The previous Olympic decathlon champion, Bruce Jenner, had become world famous with his victory in the Montreal Olympics; he even had his picture on the Wheaties box. As we know, Jenner’s world has been most interesting since then, anticipating becoming equally as famous and earning a lifetime income based on the Olympic results. However, he expressed tremendous disappointment to me that he had no chance at an Olympic medal because of the Olympic boycott of the Moscow Games. Something he had absolutely no control over. Now, the decathlete’s name is only known to a few.

FOOD OR FUEL?
Another interesting aspect of Olympic preparation is the food. Most Olympians are very careful with what they eat in order to maximize their competition build-up. When athletes travel to a number of countries for competition, they often have to adapt to what food is available and its preparation. In Stuttgart, Germany, the Olympic team was having dinner in the hotel. Near me I heard, “Ooo, I am not eating that!” A couple more athletes loudly agreed. The food seemed fine to me – just beef and vegetables. One athlete had read the posted menu that was on the table. The meat was “beef lips.” There was no way these athletes were going to eat beef lips, no matter how tasty the food was. These Olympians, including an American record holder, were not going to take any chances with food that may disrupt their competition preparation!

Food preparation is not just an American idiosyncrasy. At the Asian Track and Field Championships held in Jakarta, Indonesia, I was in the dining hall with my team from the country of Brunei Darussalam. The Japanese team entered carrying their own food. They were not going to eat anything that would possibly disrupt their performances. I also observed this when my team from the state of Sabah was at the Malaysian national championships. The meals were prepared in Malay style: spicy hot, and many of my athletes did not eat this style of preparation in their daily lives. There was no other food options and some of my athletes had stomach and intestinal problems that affected their race performance preparation.

CHAMPIONS’ FOCUS
Preparation for the competition is also mental. Again, when the Olympians are traveling away from home, out of their comfort zone, any kind of disruption can affect their performances. Because this is the Olympics, any faltering becomes magnified on the international stage. For example, while traveling together in Europe, two USA Olympians had a wonderful romance. The young couple had a lovers’ spat and both were in foul moods which had the potential to affect their athletic performances. Seeing this, a USA Olympic team official had flowers delivered to the female athlete with a note from her Olympian boyfriend. The couple reconciled, all was well, and their performances never suffered.

Being an Olympian is a lifetime honor that the athletes take very seriously. The extent of the mental and physical preparation is not commonly known outside the team, but is often crucial to the athletes’ success when representing their countries. I have been honored and privileged to observe and share these experiences as a coach and administrator – something I cannot ever fully express!
RAIDERS ON THE LAKE
Mount Alumni Playing the Field in Cleveland

For many in northeast Ohio, Cleveland sports are everything. It comes as no surprise, then, that so many Mount Union sport business alumni choose to go no further than “The Land” to pursue careers in the sports industry. Whether it’s working for the Cavs, Indians, Lake Erie Monsters, Browns, or at other sports organizations headquartered in Cleveland, many alumni are beginning and furthering their careers in northeast Ohio.

“The Cleveland Browns and the Cleveland Cavs family of teams (Cleveland Cavs, Lake Erie Monsters, Cleveland Gladiators and Canton Charge) are highly regarded in the sports industry for their employment of best business practices, “ said Dr. Jim Kadlecek, associate professor of human performance and sport business at Mount Union. “This provides graduating students with entry-level opportunities at organizations that will train them well and commit to their professional development.”

Read more about some of our exceptional alumni working in the sport business industry in Cleveland on the following pages.

AUSTIN PAVILACK ’15

Account Executive, Cleveland Browns
I work closely with businesses and individuals in northeastern Ohio in regard to purchasing season seats, groups, suites and premium hospitality for Browns games at First Energy Stadium.

What do you enjoy most about working in Cleveland? The passion of the sports fans in this city is second to none. Working with these people has been a ton of fun. I also enjoy a lot of the food spots around the city.

What is your favorite thing about Cleveland sports? The community feel. You truly feel as if you are a part of something bigger than yourself. I don’t think that is the case for a lot of cities around the country. In Cleveland, everyone roots for the sports teams no matter their performance.

How did Mount Union help you find your passion for sport business? I took a sports sales class at Mount Union my junior year and it really opened up my eyes to the possibility of sales. From there, it inspired me to pursue a few internships before graduation. I believe that class propelled me to where I am today.

In your opinion, what is the best part of your profession? I truly enjoy connecting with individuals and businesses around the area and helping them bring their passion and love for the Browns into First Energy Stadium every other Sunday. Meeting clients on a game day and seeing their excitement is what it’s all about!

BRENT KAPLAN ’15

Director of Ticket Sales and Service, Lake Erie Monsters
The activation team manages all of our current corporate partnership relationships by delivering marketing programs to partners to help enhance their business. Our team works hand-in-hand with each corporate partner to make sure they are receiving the best possible business return on investment with the Cleveland Browns.

What types of opportunities does Cleveland offer sport business professionals? Cleveland is a great city in which to pursue a sports career. The teams are progressive in how they approach their businesses, and how they look to develop positive and memorable fan experiences. We see this with upgrades to facilities/venues for the fans, usage of data and analytics on both the team and business sides, the innovations around social media and digital platforms and more. If you have passion for the industry, understand the importance of hard work and have a desire to be creative and innovative, you should pursue any opportunity that is available with our sports teams.

Why would you encourage current students to major in sport business? The opportunities that the Mount Union sport business program provides are fantastic. The professors have decades of experience in the industry, have a strong and connected network of sports professionals and provide their students with the first-hand experience that every student should be given. The industry is beyond books and exams. You’ll quickly learn if the industry is for you thanks to the experiences you get from the Mount Union sport business program.
How did Mount Union help you find your passion for sport business?
I played soccer throughout my four years. I didn't want to leave that bond behind. Mount also taught me everything I know with regard to working in the sports world.

Why did you decide to work in Cleveland?
I love Cleveland sports because of the passionate fan base. It is ed family, and I love living near Lake Erie.

In your opinion, what is the best part of your profession?
I love making people happy! That is hands down the best part of my job. I love knowing that a product I sold the person is constructed to be the best fit for that specific person.

What is your favorite thing about Cleveland sports?
I love how this city breathes sports. Win or lose, this city has passion for its teams.

What types of opportunities does Cleveland offer sport business professionals?
Seemingly unlimited amounts of opportunities to network and learn from open and honest industry professionals.

How did the sport business program at Mount Union help prepare you for your future?
It provided a great support system with the professors and pushed students outside of their comfort zones. One example is all of the presentations vs. written exams.

Who was your favorite professor at Mount Union and why?
Dr. Lori Braa! She always made things so much fun and upbeat. She made me realize that I can make it extremely far in the sports world.

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What did you enjoy most about working in Cleveland?
I enjoy the lifestyle. The vibe here is so different than any other city. You can sense that people have great pride for their city and they are not afraid to show it.

What types of opportunities does Cleveland offer sport business professionals?
Not every city is fortunate to have three major league team and an NFL, NFL and multiple minor league teams nearby. Additionally, organizations like the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and Home Team Marketing provide great non-team related opportunities. Sport business professionals have many options in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio.

How did Mount Union help you find your passion for sport business?
The passion of the professors comes through in their knowledge and network with leaders in the industry.

Why would you encourage current students to major in sport business?
It is a very rewarding career and you can really have an impact on people's lives in a positive way. That can come in the form of creating a memory for a family or helping business clients transform their businesses.

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The sports industry is one of the largest and fastest growing economic enterprises in the world. Audiences from across the globe witness the competitions that take place in a host of different international venues. People from all walks of life come together based on their devotion to the team out on the gridiron, court or pitch of their choosing. The athletes take center stage and receive much of the recognition for their hard work, yet it is today's sport business professionals that must adapt their behind-the-scenes efforts to the field's ever-changing culture.

The faculty and staff of the University of Mount Union's sport business program, a part of the Department of Human Performance and Sport Business, recognize the need to prepare students for a number of different career options they may pursue.

Among the common career fields of the program's alumni are: professional sport organizations, recreation, fitness clubs and YMCAs, event management and national sport governing bodies. Without diving into detail of specific occupations within the careers mentioned, one can see the diverse opportunities students are presented with after graduating.

With that knowledge at hand, Dr. Jim Thoma, director of the sport business program at Mount Union, was hired when the program was only three years old.

"My assignment was to add more depth to the program," Thoma said. "After a couple of years at Mount, I realized that two tests, a research paper and a final exam were not going to prepare our students for life in the sport business field. That began the transition to experiential learning through a steady diet of practical projects, research, public speaking and improved writing skills."

Although a love of sports is encouraged, the goals of the program focus more on the professional abilities and skills Thoma implemented early in the life of the program. Written and oral communications are benchmarks for much of the curriculum within the program, as employers from almost every field are focused on hiring strong candidates with those skills.

What may be most impactful for some Mount Union students are the lessons that do not come from a textbook or presentation. One of the goals of the sport business program is to prepare students for responsible citizenship, both in and out of the workplace. In most of the classes offered by the program, students are required to dress in business professional attire when giving presentations or speeches, getting them ready to become professional employees in any setting.

The program’s professors and speakers are seasoned industry professionals who are figureheads for best practices in the field. Armed with this experience, these individuals are well positioned to guide students.

"Dr. [Lori] Braa is my favorite professor," said Sarah Heilman ’16, a recent sport business graduate of Howland, Ohio. "Her classes are always entertaining and worthwhile. She serves as an incredible role model for me as a successful, strong woman in the sport business world."

The faculty of the program also understand the strong importance of the liberal arts. The program is designed to give students the option to potentially double major, earn a second minor or study abroad, all while still being on course to graduate in four years. Students and faculty members know the importance of being well-rounded while searching for a job right out of college.

"The benefits of an education grounded in the liberal arts are that you get to explore areas that you would never have thought of before," said Kelsey Coleman ’18, a sport business major of Rittman, Ohio. "This type of education expands your horizons and your intelligence. I have been able to learn about classical music, the country of France and many other things all while learning about sport business."
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Much of the curriculum in the sport business program is rooted in hands-on learning. The focal points of such learning within the program are numerous. The sport sales courses taught by Dr. Jim Kadlecček, associate professor of human performance and sport business, are an example of one of the focal points. The sales courses focus more on the concept of garnering skills through role-playing real scenarios in the ticket sales world than typical quizzes or exams. Each semester, students have the opportunity to sell tickets for the Cleveland Cavaliers as a part of the introductory sales course.

In the fall of 2015, Danielle Augustin '16 of Olmsted Falls, Ohio broke the class record by selling nearly $10,000 worth of tickets for the organization in less than three months. Results like Augustin's are incredible in terms of what the program does. She made real sales with real customers and, in the process, made the Cavaliers organization some very real money.

Other focal point examples include creating and running events on campus, developing sponsorship proposals while working with and for professional teams, writing and presenting bid proposals for international events to professional experts and completing individualized projects that meet the needs of sport and recreation organizations. In reality, the list goes on and on and all of these opportunities prepare students to perform at a high level from the moment they start their careers.

As mentioned previously, one of the cornerstones of today’s sport business professional is the ability to adapt to any situation. Because of the constantly changing professional climate, the faculty of the program are always pulling current events into their classroom lessons. New training techniques, role changes in a given sport and many other observations can be pulled right from the news headlines into useful tools for students.

The utilization of some of those new tools and technologies in the industry make it very easy for most of the program’s courses to fulfill the project-centric mindset Thoma created years ago. In a field that may change with new information daily, the faculty has recognized that hands-on projects have the potential to be incredibly valuable, keeping students up-to-date by the time they are wearing their caps and gowns.

I believe our University provides real-world experience,” said Dr. Lori Braa, assistant professor of human performance and sport business. “In sport business, our curriculum is based on giving students situations they will face in everyday life. Our students graduate with experience on their resumes that many programs do not provide, thus making them more marketable in the workplace.”

CONNECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

If you were to walk into the office of any one of the sport business faculty members and ask them what the biggest takeaway is for a sport business major’s future, they would say one word: networking.

Mount Union’s sport business program is one of the most successful programs in the nation when it comes to alumni connections. There are currently more than a dozen Mount Union alumni that hold management level or higher positions with professional sports teams. All of those alumni have attended the Sport Sales Workshop and Job Fair (SSWJF) as either students or trainers; some have even attended as both.

The SSWJF is in its 12th year and is organized by Kadlecček with the help of the Cavaliers organization, as the host site is Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. The purpose of the SSWJF is to connect students with professionals in the sport business world. The 2016 event featured representatives from more than 40 professional organizations and had more than 100 students in attendance from institutions across the country.

Much of the daylong event consists of the professionals giving special training sessions. Job and internship interviews happen during the day for the upperclassmen, potentially helping those Student Senate positions within the field immediately after graduation.

Mike Deliosa ’07, director of season ticket sales and inside sales for the Arizona Diamondbacks, has attended the event as both a student and a trainer.

“It’s not just the quantity of students that attend, it’s the quality. Both seem to get better every year,” he said.

The program also offers annual trips to the Robert Morris University Conference to help network with other members of the sport world. In addition, Kadlecček takes a small group of students each year to New York City to tour the NBA, NHL and New York Yankees executive offices, as well as Madison Square Garden. While in New York City, the groups have connected with Ed Kiernan ’96 of East Palestine, Ohio, president and founding partner of Engine Shop Agency, a sport marketing agency headquartered in New York City.

Other trips include Braa taking students to the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she worked for five years, and a behind-the-scenes look at the athletic and recreational facilities at The Ohio State University, hosted by Mount Union alumni Rob Jech ’01 and Joel Swaney ’11.

Although faculty, staff and students travel far and wide to help bolster success for all undergraduates, the sport business program also does a great job at bringing impactful alumni back to campus with a speaker series every year. Experienced alumni in diverse fields as well as recent graduates who have taken their first steps to meaningful careers come to campus to talk to students about best practices to succeed and reach their goals.

During the 2016 Spring Semester the program presented talks from the likes of Brent Stehlik ’99, chief revenue officer and executive vice president of the Cleveland Browns; Todd Fleming ’00, vice president and general manager of Legends Global Sales; and Jennifer Keurulainen ’03, former vice president of sport for The Special Olympics World Games. Industry experts are a resource students can use for future career advice.

“I still get daily emails informing me about available internships or job opportunities in my field from the sport business faculty,” said Heilman. “My professors have given me guidance to get ahead of the game. Mount Union has also provided many leadership opportunities on campus that I have taken advantage of, preparing me to be a leader in the future.”

When asked about the direction of the program moving forward, Thoma is optimistic with the faculty’s ability to adapt to the ever-changing landscape.

“I hope is that the faculty continue to learn from industry professionals about what we need to do in order to prepare our students to excel in their chosen profession, be it sport related or not,” he said.
One way that Simmons and other students in the sport business program have received hands-on experience is through the annual Sport Sales Workshop and Job Fair hosted by the sport business program every year in Cleveland, Ohio. During the workshop, students have the opportunity to attend break-out sessions to learn more about the field and network with individuals in the profession. Simmons attended the workshop for two years and then was able to assist Dr. Jim Kadlecek, the workshop director and associate professor of human performance and sport business at Mount Union, in running the workshop this past winter.

“There are so many industry professionals who come to the event from all over the country,” Simmons said. “It allows everyone to meet people in the industry and start making those connections that help them out later on.”

It was through her connections formed at the workshop that Simmons was offered a full-time job opportunity with the Cleveland Cavaliers upon graduation in May. Previously, the workshop helped Simmons secure internship positions with the Cleveland Gladiators and the Canton Charge, both of which helped lead her to her future position with the Cavaliers.

“It was pretty much all from the sport sales workshop,” Simmons said. “It was a great organization and I have gotten to know a lot of people up there already. Being able to have the opportunity to work for the Cavs is just really exciting.”

In addition to attending the workshop, Simmons gained experience in the industry through various classroom projects. All of these projects have given Simmons the hands-on experience necessary for entering the sport business field. Simmons’ favorite experience was a corporate partnership project in which her group put together a partnership proposal that they pitched directly to the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Cavaliers.

“Our pitch was about a partner they were actually trying to secure so they could take some of our ideas and actually use them,” Simmons said. “We pitched it to their partnership people, which made it very nerve racking, but once it was over I was like ‘Wow, I really just did that.’”

Not only does Simmons know how important hands-on experience in the classroom can be, she also knows how crucial being involved outside the classroom will be to her future career. Through working with the Sports Marketing Association, she has had the opportunity to travel to different events in Atlanta, Georgia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Simmons has also interned for the National Sports Forum in Cincinnati, Ohio and Portland, Oregon. She credits her exceptional professors in the sport business program for leading her to these opportunities.

“You have to use your professors as a resource,” Simmons said. “They are there to help you. If there is somebody that you want to get to know in the sports industry, one of them will know him or her or know someone who knows them.”

Leadership is another important trait that Simmons has learned through softball.

“The sports field is very competitive and there are a lot of people now trying to get into the industry,” Simmons said. “Being able to stand out through your leadership is definitely important and it will help you move up through any organization.”

As for her future goals, Simmons doesn’t fail to include Mount Union in her plans.

“I want to be able to give back to the sport business program,” Simmons said. “Alumni come back all the time and we have some top-level people in the industry now. I eventually want to be able to do that as well and tell my story to students and say ‘you can do it too.’”
Ed Kiernan ’96
Chief Marketing Officer and Founding Partner, Engine Shop
B.S., Sport Management, University of Mount Union

Engine Shop specializes in helping brands connect with consumers online and in person through live experiences, digital engagement and original and branded content. We have deep roots across entertainment, sports, art, music, culture and more. We focus on passion points to create authentic engagements with each consumer. Our offices are located nationwide, and our clients include Mercedes-Benz, Omega, Tiffany & Co., ESPN, JD, Budweiser and Nike, among others.

Career Life
Every day is something new and different – it keeps me on my toes and prevents boredom. Plus, I have the opportunity to travel both domestically and internationally and see new and exciting places.

Early Connections
I interned for the PGA Tour and its championship management division. Dr. James Thoma and fellow Mount Union alumnus Tim Wicinski ’94 helped me land the internship.

A Personal Experience
I liked the “personal touch” and “small college feel.” I wanted to go somewhere that I could interact with my professors one on one and Mount provided that. Not to mention, the campus is absolutely gorgeous!

Briana Harris ’15
Account Manager of Group Sales, Miami Heat
B.S., Sport Business, University of Mount Union

I work with new and returning clients to design ticket packages for Miami games. I help my groups accomplish long-term and short-term goals as well as create lasting memories.

Career in Sales
The best thing about my current job is working for a world-class organization. I love working for an organization that collectively works together to be better every day. With this mindset, I have been able to make the most out of the relationships I have as well as learning something new every single day.

Unexpected Learning Opportunity
The liberal arts education at Mount Union prepared me for my career because it forced me to take classes and learn about topics I would not have voluntarily taken. By no means am I a science person; however, to fill my science requirement, I signed up for a course in environmental science. What I thought would be the worst class ever ended up being the most fun and challenging class with a field trip once a week to places like landfills and water treatment centers.

As a working adult, there are tasks I am still not thrilled about accomplishing. However, Mount Union’s liberal arts education has taught me that I can finish any task sent my way and I may even come out the other side better than when I started.

Home Away from Home
I chose Mount Union because from the moment I stepped foot on campus, it felt like home. I knew this would be the place that would help me create my journey.

Flavil Hampsten ’01
Executive Vice President, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Sharks Sports and Entertainment
B.S., Business Administration, University of Mount Union

I am responsible for all revenue and marketing functions that run through my office including ticket sales, client retention, suite sales and service and business intelligence.

Smart Beginnings
I actually had three internships while at Mount Union. Not only did my professors assist me to secure each, they were there to guide me through the challenges with each to ensure that I was successful. In my first professional job, I worked as corporate marketing manager for Mandalay Sports and Entertainment.

Favorite Part of the Job
Generating revenue is a game changer for sports organizations. If you can do it, then the entire culture shifts.

The Mount Union Difference
My Mount Union education provided real-life experience and contacts that led to my career. Without the advice and tough love I would not have had the success that I’ve experienced. The small class sizes and the access to academic professionals make the difference. The professors are not only great teachers, but also serve as excellent mentors.

I toured numerous schools and found Mount’s personal attention and approach to academics to be the difference. You are not a number at Mount, you are an important part of the University and everyone is dedicated to ensuring that you are successful.

Mike Dellosa ’07
Director of Season Ticket Sales and Inside Sales, Arizona Diamondbacks
B.S., Sport Business, University of Mount Union

My current role with the Diamondbacks is to oversee all new season ticket sales efforts for the team. I directly manage a group of eight business development account executives and also help run our inside sales department, which is our entry-level staff of 18 full-time sales consultants.

High Quality Programs
I knew in high school that I wanted to pursue a career in sport business, so when I began researching the best sport business schools in the area, it was a no-brainer to attend Mount Union. Its program continually ranks among the best in the nation. Had I not gone to Mount Union, I’m confident that I would not be where I am today.

Staying Connected
I make an effort to attend the annual Sports Sales Workshop, which is hosted by Dr. Jim Kadlecek and the Mount Union sport business program. It’s a must for any students looking to learn more about revenue generation in sports while networking with some of the top talent in the sport industry. I also keep in close contact with other sport business majors from Mount Union who are now scattered across the country working for various teams and leagues.

Favorite Part of the Job
Each day, I’m surrounded by some of the most passionate, hard-working and creative people in the industry. I also enjoy being challenged to be innovative in my job to make sure the D-backs remain on the cutting edge of the ticketing industry. Trends in sport business can change very quickly, so it’s important to stay one step ahead.
Recently hired at Monumental Sports and Entertainment, I connect fans and businesses to unforgettable experiences and opportunities with the Washington Wizards, Capitals, Mystics and Verizon Center events through membership, VIP packages and suite sales.

A Place Like Home

As much as I enjoyed my breaks as a student, I always looked forward to going right back to Mount. It is easy to find your second home at Mount, whether it is in athletics, the fraternity and sorority community or a club.

Choosing Sport Business

I worked in sports in my community and had an interest in business throughout high school, but I never knew I could make a career out of those interests until I visited Mount Union. I attended a presentation about the sport business major out of pure curiosity during Preview. I was instantly hooked from then on and my love for sport business has continued to grow ever since.

Future Goals

I would like to continue gaining experience in different aspects of the sport world, starting in sales, and eventually enjoy being an executive recruiter for a professional sports team. This industry has countless opportunities. I’m sure my plans will change, but this excites me. Ultimately, I want to be a professor of sport business after I gain adequate experience, like my professors have done for me.

As vice president of HWS Baseball, I help oversee our Minor League Baseball franchises as well as our company’s entertain- ment division. As general manager of the Scappers, I manage all business operations with the team. I also oversee our player development contract with the Cleveland Indians.

Diverse Career Experience

I enjoy the diversity that I have in my job. One day I will be working on baseball and another could be a concert and the next could be a community event at the stadium. No two days are alike with my job.

Exceptional Experiential Learning

I interned at IMG, an event management company in Cleveland. I found out about IMG through my sport business classes at Mount Union. I applied and was accepted into its summer internship program and it was instrumental in providing me with the real-life job experience needed to work in sports.

Return on Educational Investment

I knew from an early age I wanted to work in sports after graduating. While researching and visiting schools, I learned Mount Union had an excellent sport business program. I really enjoyed my campus visit and after that, I knew Mount Union was the school for me.

I am responsible for corporate account acquisition for all hospitality inventory and directly impact the growth and expan- sion of our customer base. I work within the ticketing depart- ment to achieve customer satisfaction, revenue generation and long-term account goals that are in line with the company’s overall objectives.

Internship x 3

I had three internships while I attended Mount Union. My first internship was as a box office intern for the Lake County Captains. My typical game day was working the box office call ticket window, stuffing envelopes for groups, organizing the birthday parties, being the mascot for the sixth inning run around the warning track, working the 50/50 raffle table and, if it was raining, being ready to put the tarp on the diamond. That was a truly impactful internship for me because I got a very valuable understanding of the industry – you do everything when you work minor league sports and you have to be able to wear multiple hats. I received a second internship at the Cleveland Cavaliers, which eventually helped me to get the third internship with the Canton Charge as a night sales intern and seasonal ticket sales associate with the Cleveland Gladiators.

Spreading the Love

What I like most about my job is growing the sport I love in America. I am passionate in the fact that soccer is a sport that can bring people together from all cultures. With my job, I get to work soccer events all over the greater New York area and spread visibility for this beautiful game.

Making a Difference

While it is certainly a challenging field, the most rewarding aspect is getting a thank you note from a client after a successful event. This is less for personal gratification and more about knowing that my team has been able to make a difference in that person’s life, even if only for a short while. The latter is a very important part of the Hall of Fame’s mission and values. Additionally, watching my team members of the hospitality department grow and realize what they are capable of is very rewarding.

Favorite Professor

Dr. Jim Thoma comes from such a diverse background that he is able to provide very unique perspectives that relate directly to the curriculum of his classes. This creates a more well-rounded understanding of his teachings. Additionally, he teaches consistency within many areas but none more so than writing style, especially related to business/professional communication. I personally feel this is an area that is under- valued by those in the 20-40 age range. Accordingly, Dr. Thoma’s persistence with articulating these lessons drives my writing style to this day, which provides an advantage.
Regiment, which assembled in Alliance, the history of the 19th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. " The book describes Tales and Trails of the Nineteenth Ohio published the book "Dixie Odyssey, Paul Hobe '64 of Louisville, Ohio, George Bica, and sister, Virginia Bica. Violet's generous gift that the Bica-Ross psychologist organizations. It was through as well as president of many local psy- served as an educator and psychologist by Kent State University's College of Education, Health and Human Services. It was honored 2016, nominees, including Cariianne, will be participated in a 10-week campaign in which they raised funds for a leukemia & lymphoma survivor. She is also an advisor for Delta Sigma Tau sorority. Lisa Bowling-Shaffer '93 is now work- ing as a supervisor in customer service at Prime Time Health Plan (AudiCare) in Canton, Ohio. Marla N. Presley '00 has been named a litigation manager to the Pittsburgh office of law firm Jackson Lewis P.C. Vince W. Finney '01 has been named to the office of Connecticut State Attorney for the Superior Court. Bob Gray '75 will be induct- ed into the National Athletic Training Community Affairs for Clev- enland Clinic Sports Health. In his role, he is responsible for staffing all athlet- ic events the Cleveland Clinic spon- sors with medical personnel. After graduating from Mount Union, Gray earned a master's degree in physical education with a specialization in athletic training from Indiana University. Kelly '94 and John Frammar- tino were married October 24, 2015. Members of the wedding party in- cluded Katy Kiraly '08 and George Kiraly Jr. '10. The couple resides in Poland, Ohio. Justin Todd ’04 of Howard, Ohio, was named head varsity football coach for the Wadsworth City School District. Erin (McCauley '05) and Mark ‘05 Lyons of Hudson, Ohio announce the birth of a son, Declan Mark, on May 1, 2014. He joins brother Brady Philip, 6. Meredith ‘Ross ’05 and Jeremy ’03 Fisher announce the birth of a daughter, Lily Addison, on November 11, 2015. She joins brothers Brady, 7, and Gavin, 3. The family resides in Canton, Ohio. Sarah Gnozdle ‘06 of Bedford, Ohio, was awarded the James E. Cook Scholar- ship in Young Adult Librarianship from Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science. Sarah received a degree in early childhood education with honors and a sport management concentration in recreation from Mount Union. She works as the youth program supervisor for Orange Community Education and Recreation while pursu- ing a Master of Library and Information Science degree at Kent State, with a spe- cialization in teen library services. Mike Lemponen ’08 and wife, Jillian, were married May 2, 2015. Members of the bridal party included Kevin Brown ’08, Kevin Gray ’10 and Jeremy Harper ’09. Mike is a middle/high school health teacher and high school soccer and track coach for the Huron City School Dis- trict. Michael Pugh ’08 and wife, Tara, Well, another fan- tastic year at Mount Union has come to a close with the recent graduation of our 2016 Senior Class. This year included some of the same successes and outstanding events as we typically enjoy be- ing part of the Mount Union community such as adding another football national championship to the archives, another outstanding Speaker who talks about the university with Chuck Todd and SCHOLAR Day. I can't begin to tell you how exciting it was to participate in the senior events by presenting this year's Great Teacher Award. The winner, Dr. Grant Cook III, was so truly honored and humbled to re- ceive the award and he reflects the qual- ities that we have seen over the many generations of educators and highlighted by their true commitment to the success of our students. Many alumni were also able to par- ticipate in the activities surrounding the inauguration of Dick Merriman as president of our great institution. The point is that all of these outstanding events are open to all alumni and friends of the University. Participating in them not only brings back great memories of my time on campus as a student but also enables me to see the continued exceptional qualities of our students and university. I know I get energized every time I step foot on campus! I hope you, my fellow alumni, are making the efforts to get back on campus as often as possible to experience these same feelings. Don't ever forget the many fond memories of your time on campus and the many events and activities that helped to shape your life relationships and career. I hope to see you on campus soon.

-Bill Schumacher ‘82 Alumni Association President
welcomed a son, Trace Daniel, on November 24, 2015. The couple were married on September 22, 2012 in Cleveland, Ohio. Members of the bridal party included Alana (Wolonsky ’08) Tarry and Andrew Cavalier ’08.

Kelli (Miller ’09) and Brian Liddle announce the birth of a daughter, Peyton Nicole, on January 2, 2016.

2010s

Melissa (Shuttic ’09) and Josh ’10 Baker were married May 23, 2015. Members of the wedding party included Brittany Vanderhide ’09 and Sarah Zuch ’09.

Alexandria (Glanemann ’10) and Jeremy Foss announce the birth of a son, Kenneth Louis, on May 4, 2015.

In summer 2015, Laura Kibby ‘12 studied Buddhism and spiritual connections to nature in the Old World rain forests and diverse cultural environments of Thailand. Laura, a teacher at Boardman Glenwood Middle School in Boardman, Ohio, took the graduate course in pursuit of her master’s degree from Miami University’s Global Field Program.


Lara Ruth Hurst ’47 of Warren, Ohio, died January 17, 2016.

Betty June (Ritter ’47) Olson of Fort Pierce, Florida, died October 10, 2015.

Irene (Rowan ’48) Koval of Westerville, Ohio, died March 18, 2016.

Thelma Hill ’49 of Mentor, Ohio, died February 25, 2016. Thelma served in the Peace Corps in St. Lucia from 1963-1965 and taught science for various schools. She was a member of the Buckeye Trail Association, Appalachian Trial Conservancy and the Burroughs Club.

Ernest Linsmaier ’49 of Cary, North Carolina, died February 8, 2016. Ruth was an active member of the United Methodist Church and during her time living in North Carolina she joined the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Daughters of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames. She had a love for music, which she passed along to her children.

Dorothy (Smith ’46) Brown of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died on March 2, 2016.

Elizabeth (Burton ’44) Frankenberg of Sebring, Ohio, died February 18, 2016.

Mary Jane (Shaweker ’44) Trustdorf of Lincolnshire, Illinois, died October 17, 2015.

Margie (Schwein ’44) Williams of Mansfield, Ohio, died January 13, 2016. Throughout her life, Margie’s love and passion for the arts led her work at the Mansfield Art Center for 20 years until her retirement. She was known for keeping incredible journals and for her writing abilities.

Ruth Elizabeth (Wemple ’45) Bolz of Cary, North Carolina, died February 6, 2016. Ruth was an active member of the United Methodist Church and during her time living in North Carolina she joined the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Daughters of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames. She had a love for music, which she passed along to her children.

Dorothy (Smith ’46) Brown of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died March 2, 2016.
Richard S. Mather ’49 of Massillon, Ohio, died October 2, 2015.

1950s

Thadeus W. Jurczyk ’50 of Cleveland, Ohio, died October 30, 2015.

Tony Lee ’50 of Alliance, Ohio, died November 15, 2015.

Charles D. MacLagan ’50 of Somerset, Massachusetts, died March 12, 2016.

Carol (Andres) ’50 Richmond of Maple Heights, Ohio, died December 9, 2015. Throughout her life, she loved visiting Chautauqua, New York, and was active as a Methodist youth counselor.

Alice (Weir) ’50 Myser of Canton, Ohio, died October 30, 2015.

Dora, Florida in 1983 before moving to Littleton in 2012.

Ohio, died January 20, 2016. Vogel enjoyed a career of active as a Methodist youth counselor.

Vogel enjoyed a career of active as a Methodist youth counselor.

Mary (Jolly) ’51 Henshaw of Cave City, Kentucky, died November 29, 2015.

Harold J. Logan ’51 of Huntington, West Virginia, died on December 12, 2015.

Georgia (Shollenberger) ’53 Vogel of Mountain View, Arkansas, died January 4, 2016. Gordon owned the Whistle Stop Hobby Shop in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was an avid collector of toy trains. He was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1963.

1960s

Joan (Davis) ’60 Gayulas of Tuscon, Arizona, died March 15, 2016.

Gayle E. (Moran) ’60 Vogelgesang of Littleton, Colorado, died April 11, 2015. She was a member of the United Methodist Church and moved to Mt. Dora, Florida in 1983 before moving to Littleton in 2012.

Rose (Drake) ’61 D’Eramo of Youngstown, Ohio, died January 16, 2016. She was an avid reader, loved needlework and was known for her passion for helping people. Rose worked at the Zanesville YWCA, taught English at Austintown Fitch High School and loved tutoring students.

Kenneth Valentine ’61 of Worthington, Ohio, died September 11, 2015.

Donald L. Denny ’62 of Beloit, Ohio, died January 9, 2016. He was employed as a principle at Knox School and was a farmer. He was a member of the Bethel United Church of Christ and was a Basin, Mile Branch Grange member and Farm Bureau member.


Shirley (Coleman) Burns died October 30, 2015.

James G. Davis ’63 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died December 21, 2015.

Bette Lou George ’63 of Alliance, Ohio, died January 13, 2016. After her retirement, she worked at Rodman Public Library and the Mount Union Library as the director of the research department.

1970s

Donald “Andy” A. Campbell ’76 of Toledo, Ohio, died March 2, 2016. Donald had a love for sports and followed all of his favorite Ohio teams. He also loved fishing, listening to classic rock and attending concerts.

Lee A. Brown ’79 of Alliance, Ohio, died October 17, 2015.

Lee A. Brown ’79 of Alliance, Ohio, died November 16, 2015.

Robert Morgan ’68 of Lewis Center, Ohio, died March 1, 2016.

Dennis Williams ’68 of Louisville, Ohio, died November 19, 2015.

William F. Louden ’69 of Louisville, Ohio, died November 16, 2015.

David Snyder ’66 of Louisville, Ohio, died November 16, 2015. Snyder was a member of the Honors Program, Kappa Phi, flag corps and the band.

Robert Morgan ’68 of Lewis Center, Ohio, died March 1, 2016.

Kurt Foster ’91 of Akron, Ohio, died December 6, 2015.

Jon Erik Anstrom ’98 of Boardman, Ohio, died February 5, 2016.


Katharina Cibulas ’79 of Alliance, Ohio, died April 18, 2015.

2010s

Sydney C. Breyer, a freshman of Springboro, Ohio, died October 7, 2015.

David Snyder ’66 of Louisville, Ohio, died November 16, 2015. Snyder was a member of the Honors Program, Kappa Phi, flag corps and the band.

Robert Morgan ’68 of Lewis Center, Ohio, died March 1, 2016.

Kurt Foster ’91 of Akron, Ohio, died December 6, 2015.

Jon Erik Anstrom ’98 of Boardman, Ohio, died February 5, 2016.


Katharina Cibulas ’79 of Alliance, Ohio, died April 18, 2015.
Please note: I do not want my magazine to be returned.

Further information: Photos of the magazine staff, used at the discretion of the editors, are submitted as space allows. Photos of the magazine staff, used at the discretion of the editors, are submitted as space allows. Remember, pictures are welcome! They will be used at the discretion of the editors.

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 ext. 7803; (330) 823-7803; or wallacsj@mountunion.edu.

You also may update your information online at: alumni.mountunion.edu.

Remember, pictures are welcome! They will be used at the discretion of the magazine staff.

The Farnhams reside in Medina, Ohio and enjoy traveling and spending time with family. Their grandson, Brian Farnham, is a 2014 Mount Union alumnus.

For Dr. Edward ’54 and Helen (Wright ’53) Farnham, being philanthropic is simply the American way. "If you read the newspapers, you'll learn that Americans are the most generous people in the world," Edward said. "We were brought up that way."

The Farnhams have extended their charitable giving to numerous organizations throughout the years, but they always keep their loyalty to Mount Union at the forefront of their generosity. Both grew up in Alliance and have remained connected to the University and their hometown throughout their lives. Helen’s father, Robert D. Wright, was a former men’s basketball coach at Mount Union, leading the team during World War II.

Edward, a retired general surgeon who was instrumental in modernizing surgery at Medina Hospital, and Helen, a former teacher at Mayfield Heights and Worthington, Ohio, have chosen to strengthen and advance Mount Union in multiple ways over the years.

Edward and Helen’s generous support of Mount Union has earned them membership into the Forever Mount Society, Heritage Society and The Mount Union Fund’s 1846 Society. In addition, Edward and Helen named a faculty office in the Physician Assistant Studies area of Galaher Hall. Donating his time and talent, Edward is a member of the Physician Assistant Studies Advisory Council.

Making a difference in the lives of Mount Union students, the couple established the Dr. Edward L. and Helen (Wright) Farnham Endowed Scholarship to assist students pursuing careers in the sciences.

The Farnhams reside in Medina, Ohio and enjoy traveling and spending time with family. Their grandson, Brian Farnham, is a 2014 Mount Union alumnus.

Learn how you, too, can create a lasting legacy at Mount Union.

It’s easier than you might think to make a significant impact on higher education. For more information, contact Sherrie Wallace, director of gift planning, at (800) 992-6682 ext. 7803; (330) 823-7803; or wallacsj@mountunion.edu.

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Planned gifts have significant impact on the future of Mount Union. These gifts enable you to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Mount Union students while enhancing your financial and estate planning goals, offering tax and income advantages. Types of planned gifts include: charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement assets and will bequests.

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AF16MUMagazine#2
DO YOU KNOW ANY PROSPECTIVE PURPLE RAIDERS?

As a PURPLE RAIDER, you know first-hand what it takes to bleed purple, and chances are you know a student who would be a PERFECT FIT for Mount Union.

Encourage them to visit! We’re confident that when people step foot on Mount Union’s campus, they’ll FALL IN LOVE just like you did! Legacy Families are welcome anytime to CONTINUE THE TRADITION!

GO TO mountunion.edu/prospective-student-referral-form to submit their contact information
(Be sure to have the complete name, address, email and year of high school graduation before you begin).