

175 YEARS

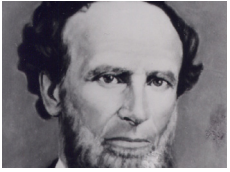
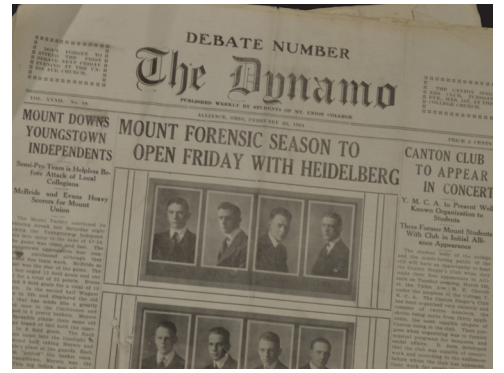
History seldom seems like it is being made when it happens. When Orville Nelson Hartshorn — “Alliance’s Abraham Lincoln,” as many prospective student passersby would imply from his statue near the campus lakes — came through the town of Mount Union, one could assume he felt he was making a difference for a small population. What he did was create a place where tens of thousands of individuals have found a second home, a career path, and, most often, themselves.

History continues to be made on Mount Union’s campus 175 years after Hartshorn stepped foot in the community. With the expansion and renovation of the campus, its facilities, and academic offerings, Mount Union is poised for continued growth, all while reflecting on how it got to this significant moment in time.

The following pages reflect upon the University’s history as its bicentennial — 175th anniversary — approaches. The institution’s first 150 years are highlighted visually on first two subsequent pages. The following pages offer more detail regarding the exceptional progress made in the last 25 years.

See mountunion.edu/175 for a more extensive timeline and additional historical highlights.





CAMPUS LEADERS

Throughout the course of the past 25 years, Mount Union has been fortunate to have had five capable presidents at the helm. These individuals have led the institution during a time of unprecedented change and growth. The timeline that follows highlights some of their key successes, which have been color-coded (as detailed below) by presidential tenure.



1997

The Purple Raiders clinch their third NCAA Division III National Championship in football following wins in 1993 and 1996. The Mount Union football team would go on to win in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2015, and 2017, for a total of 13 championships, a record for any football program in any division in a playoff format. Other NCAA national championships earned by Mount Union athletic teams include cross country (1974), men's outdoor track (2014 and 2018), and men's indoor track (2018), in addition to numerous individual titles.

is \$19.5 million, and *Building Toward 2000*, a fundraising effort specific to these projects, is established under the umbrella of the *Progress with Tradition* capital campaign.

1999

The *Progress with Tradition* campaign ends with \$63.6 million raised, surpassing the \$35 million goal and building a solid foundation for future campaign successes. Subsequent campaigns would include *Drive for Distinction*, which would raise \$82.3 million, surpassing its \$80 million goal a year ahead of its 2010 completion schedule; a \$25 million campaign for the health and medical sciences building and performing arts center, which would result in the opening of the Giese Center for the Performing Arts and Gallaher Hall during the 2014-2015 academic year; and the current *Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives* effort, a \$50-million campaign, of which \$45.4 million has been raised to date.

1998

While construction continues on Bica-Ross Residence Hall, ground is broken on the Dewald Chapel, Kolenbrander-Harter Information Center (KHIC), and Shields Residence Hall. The project total for these three new facilities

Dr. Harold M. Kolenbrander

1986-2000



Dr. John L. Ewing, Jr.

2000-2005



Dr. Richard F. Giese

2005-2015



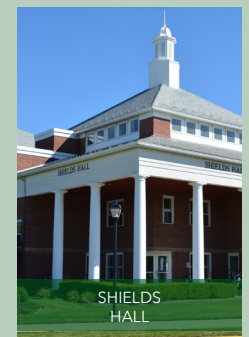
Dr. W. Richard Merriman, Jr.

2015-2020



Dr. Thomas J. Botzman

2020-present

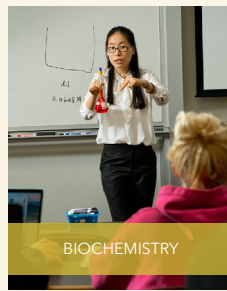


2000

President Ewing initiates a strategic planning process on campus, beginning with the identification of Mount Union's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Subsequent, successful strategic planning efforts would include the *Advancing Excellence* plan during Dr. Giese's tenure and the *Compass 2021* plan during Dr. Merriman's presidency.

2001

In the wake of the tragedies of September 11, 2001, efforts to bring the Mount Union community together are initiated on campus. Student organizations, encouraged by members of the Alpha Lambda Delta academic honorary, rally to raise funds to support those directly impacted. More than a decade later, Mount Union art students would partner with the City of Alliance to establish a September 11 Memorial in Silver Park. This memorial, which would be dedicated on September 11, 2014, would honor all who perished on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, PA.



BIOCHEMISTRY



NEUROSCIENCE



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



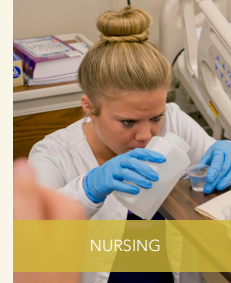
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



CIVIL ENGINEERING



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



NURSING



BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

2002

The institution adds a new, in-demand major in biochemistry, one of the first in a series of strategic additions to the undergraduate curriculum that would move Mount Union further toward comprehensive university status. Other strategic additions throughout the early part of the 21st century would include neuroscience (2005), intervention specialist (2007), criminal justice (2008), environmental science (2008), civil engineering

(2010), mechanical engineering (2010), nursing (2012), human development and family science (2013), biomedical engineering (2018), computer engineering (2018), electrical engineering (2018), and risk management and insurance (2019), among others.

2003

Mount Union receives continued accreditation without conditions from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The University would receive reaffirmation of its accreditation from the HLC in 2013 and 2021.

2004

U.S. Congress passes an appropriations bill, awarding \$1 million to Mount Union for the establishment of a Center for Public Service. The center would later be named for the late Congressman Ralph Regula '48, and his late wife, Mary (Rogusky '49) Regula, in honor of their decades-long commitment to public service. In future years, the Regula center would offer a variety of opportunities that allow students to prepare for careers in public service, get involved in the community, and learn about the importance of civic engagement.





ate in the fashion in which they have become accustomed. It would result in a new partnership with AVI Foodsystems, a dining commons and B & B Café “face lift,” a renovation of traditional residence halls, the construction of apartment-style housing (Hartshorn Village, Brown Village, and Union Avenue West Village), and an overhaul of recreation facilities, including the MAAC.

2005

The dedication of a new house for the Sigma Nu fraternity ushers in an era of campus revitalization following the construction of Bracy Hall in 2003. Over the course of the next 10 years, the University would invest more than \$110 million in its campus and facilities, significantly renovating or constructing 35 of the institution’s 50+ current facilities. In addition to the Sigma Nu house, renovated and constructed buildings during this period would include the Hoover-Price Campus Center (2007), Brown Village (2007), Hartshorn Village (2007), McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex (MAAC) (2009), Gartner Welcome Center (2009), Oak Hall (2010), Academic Mall (2010), Union Avenue West Village (2011), Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House (2012), Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House (2013), Delta Sigma Tau Sorority House (2013), Mount Union Stadium (2013) Mount

Union Stadium Plaza (2013), Gallaher Hall (2014), KHIC Learning Commons (2014), Riggs Plaza (2014), and the Giese Center for the Performing Arts (2015). In the years to follow, the University would also renovate or construct Wable Park (2019), Tolerton and Hood Hall (2019), the third floor of KHIC (2019), van den Eynden Hall (2019), Rafeld-Rogers Field (2019), and the Capers Football Coaching Center (2020). In addition, the institution would break ground on an addition to Oak Hall to support growth in business and engineering (2021).

2006

Mount Union takes steps to create what is referred to as a 24/7 campus – one that provides students with the modern conveniences they require in order to feel “at home” at Mount Union. This effort focuses on tailoring campus to allow students to eat, sleep, and recre-

2007

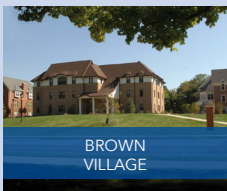
The University welcomes a record-breaking class of more than 700 new students, a number that would be surpassed in both 2008 and 2012. Overall enrollment reaches a record 2,166 full-time students in 2010. In addition, a campus-wide plan would result in improved retention rates, achieving the highest freshman-to-sophomore retention rate in nearly a decade at 78.3% in 2014.

2008

Mount Union’s physician assistant (PA) studies program, the first graduate program on campus in nearly a century, is granted provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). The program would begin on campus a year later with an inaugural class of 19 students and eventually reach a cap of 40 students annually. In later years, additional graduate programs would be launched on campus, including a Doctor of Physical Therapy as well as a Master of Education and Master of Business Administration, both of which would be offered fully online.

2009

Following the launch of a campus climate study on diversity, Mount Union adopts a comprehensive Diversity Plan, which calls for an increase in the number of diverse students living and



BROWN VILLAGE



MCPHERSON ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX



GARTNER WELCOME CENTER



OAK HALL



MOUNT UNION STADIUM



GALLAHER HALL



GEIE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



CAPERS FOOTBALL COACHING CENTER

learning on campus. The institution would surpass the initial goal set forth in this plan with 17% of the student body being American minority or international students. Diversity programming would be enhanced as well, including the establishment of a number of new diversity-related organizations, including current organizations such as Active Minds, the Association of International Students, the Black Student Union, Brothers Building Bonds, Gender Equity Matters, Hispanic Organization Latin America (HOLA), PRIDE, Sister Circle, and Spiritual Life Leadership.



2010

After careful review of data and thoughtful consideration, the Board of Trustees votes unanimously to change the designation of the institution from “college” to “university.” August 1, 2010, marks the official change to the University of Mount Union. The decision followed a research effort about current trends and perceptions, and alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and current students provided critical feedback. The extraordinary amount of change and progress at Mount Union served as a catalyst for the decision.



2011

The members of the Mount Union Board of Trustees approve the addition of men’s and women’s lacrosse teams to the University’s intercollegiate athletic program. Varsity competition with the NCAA’s Division III would begin in 2012-2013. Within the decade, additional athletic and co-curricular offerings would include competitive cheer and dance (2018), men’s volleyball (2019), and esports (2019).



2012

With a general education curriculum that hadn’t been revised in nearly three decades, the Mount Union faculty develops and launches the Integrative Core – a collection of foundational courses that ensures a well-rounded educational experience. Alongside this general educational overhaul is a complete restructuring of the academic curriculum resulting from the common course being transitioned from three to four credits.

2013

The University begins a fiscal year that would result in the institution’s 60th year of balanced financial operations. As a result of prudent management, the generosity of alumni and friends, and the diligence of the entire campus community, Mount Union would continue this streak through the current day, a remarkable accomplishment during a

time when many colleges and universities are struggling financially or closing their doors.

2014

In an effort to battle “brain drain” in the area and keep Alliance’s best and brightest in the city, Mount Union launches the Investment Alliance initiative. Through the program, the top 15 students of each Alliance High School graduating class who meet the eligibility requirements of the program are awarded full-tuition undergraduate awards to Mount Union that are renewable for up to four years. The program would lead to nearly 70 Investment Alliance scholars enrolling at Mount Union, with more than 60% of them living and working in the Alliance area following graduation.

2015

The University designates 2015 as the Year of the Arts on campus, a yearlong celebration featuring a number of special and guest performances, a full repertoire of music and theatre student performances, gallery shows by student and professional artists, and a number of lectures dedicated to the arts. The year also featured the dedication and opening of the Richard F. and Sandra L. Giese Center for the Performing Arts during the University’s Black Tie Gala event.



2016

In accordance with a strategic planning initiative to enhance workplace culture, the faculty, administrators, staff, and trustees begin work to articulate shared governance and lay out clearly the roles of each group in various domains. This work would result in strengthened leadership development and succession processes within the Board of Trustees, the development of a Faculty Senate and Administrator Advisory Council (to complement the existing Support Staff Advisory Council), and a revised internal communication strategy to provide enhanced clarity and transparency.



2017

Mount Union continues its efforts to address college affordability and make its education accessible to students of all backgrounds through the establishment of the Dick Merriman and Margot Kelman President's Rescue Fund. This fund is designed for juniors and seniors who have explored all financial aid and loan options to support their education, but still need a little help to get them to the finish line. Two years later, the University would announce the creation of the Mount Union Pell Opportunity Grant, which would bridge the entire gap between tuition costs and what families of modest financial means can afford to pay toward a college degree. After qualified students have tapped funds from the Federal Pell Grant and loan programs, Mount Union Pell Opportunity Grants would cover remaining financial needs to fully pay for the University's tuition.



2018

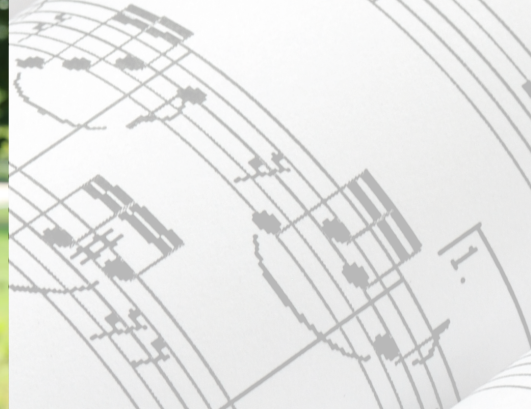
The Board of Trustees makes the decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church following the church's confirmation and commitment to enforcing rules regarding the LGBTQIA community. The church's decision is deemed at odds with the University's historical and current commitments to welcome and support all people who wish to participate in the institution's programs. The trustees affirm the importance of vibrant campus ministry and spiritual life programs and commit to continued emphasis of its Methodist and Wesleyan heritage and commitments.

2019

Adapting to the growth and success of its academic offering and the ever-changing landscape of higher education, Mount

Union reorganizes its academic structure into three distinct colleges within the institution. The College of Applied and Social Sciences, College of Arts and Humanities, and College of Natural and Health Sciences are established as a result. In addition, new founding deans join the Mount Union community – Dr. Kristine Still, founding dean of the College of Applied and Social Sciences; Dr. Heather Duda, founding dean of the College of Arts and Humanities; and Dr. Sandra Madar, founding dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.





LET THE ECHOES ROLL

2020

As Dr. Merriman hands the reins over to Dr. Botzman, Mount Union joins the rest of the world in battling the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic. In-person classes are transitioned to an online format within a matter of days, and residence halls are closed for the remainder of the 2020 Spring Semester as a result of guidelines and mandates. Careful planning over the summer months makes it possible for a return to campus for the 2020-2021 Academic Year, albeit with modifications within the living and learning environment detailed in the institution's *Fall 2020 Responsible Reopening Guide*. The University would go on to successfully navigate the challenges of the pandemic, keeping positive case numbers to a minimum and carrying out random surveillance testing and campus vaccination clinics while supporting students in need with emergency funding (see page 14). The academic year would wrap up with six in-person Commencement ceremonies (see page 2), and the University would begin work to adapt its policies as restrictions are lifted.

2021

Mount Union announces the addition of a School of Business and a School of Education as part of a realignment of

its academic structure. These two new schools join the already existing School of Engineering within the College of Applied and Social Sciences. These additions come as a result of Mount Union's continued strength within the respective areas, with more than 440 undergraduate students majoring in a business-related field and nearly 200 undergraduates majoring in an education-related field as of the 2020 Spring Semester.



To help commemorate Mount Union's 175th anniversary, Mount Union has commissioned Harry Paidas '74 to write an updated history of Mount Union from 1996 (the sesquicentennial) through 2021.

Paidas is uniquely qualified for the role since he graduated from Mount and spent 33 years of his professional career as the chief public relations officer, faculty member in the Department of Communication, and director of the Regula Center for Public Service. He was a direct report to five of Mount Union's presidents as well as a colleague of current President Tom Botzman. During the past three decades, he was literally "in the room where it happened."

The book will be titled *Let the Echoes Roll*, a line from the Mount Union fight song which ties into the previous title authored by the late John Saffell, *Wake the Echoes*. The original history, *A Select School*, was authored by N. Yost Osborne.

In *Let the Echoes Roll*, Paidas recounts the major decisions and events that have shaped Mount Union during the past 25 years and the accomplishments of each of the presidents during that time frame. A separate chapter is dedicated to the unprecedented success of the football program, which has produced national media coverage.

The book is scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving 2021 and available for purchase in time for the holidays.