

# MOUNT UNION

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FALL/WINTER  
2020

## BACK *for the Future*

Botzmans return to campus to lead  
Mount Union's next generation





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## #BeExceptional

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- 1 **President's Message**
- 2 **Talking Points**
- 6 **First Look**
- 10 **Exceptional Education**
- 12 **Inspiring Stories**
- 18 **Class Notes**

# Welcome HOME

*Compliments of the Office of Alumni Engagement*



As 2020 began, I had the good fortune to accept my second presidency and to return to the place where my higher education career began over 30 years ago. Looking out the window, a much larger window than that in my first tiny office on campus, I can see the University of Mount Union's past, present, and a bit of our future. Chapman Hall, our first significant structure on campus, continues to feature classic Romanesque architecture and the tiny window of my former office near the cupola that has been an icon on campus for many decades.

When I accepted my first presidency at Misericordia University in 2013, I received congratulations from friends old and new. As the 13<sup>th</sup> president, it was my honor to move us through a time of facility and endowment growth, student success, and work with faculty and staff colleagues who understood the power of mission. Early in 2020, I assumed that would be the pattern for my arrival at Mount Union in July. I was, of course, wrong.

My arrival was greeted with congratulations that were often followed with "you picked a really difficult time to move to a new presidency." Yes, it has been difficult, but being a university president is joyful and exhausting, planned and unexpected, all while being surrounded by many advisors in our academic and local communities yet alone in decisions. Many may conclude that this is the most difficult and challenging time to be a president. I don't believe that to be true. At Mount Union, we have survived World War I, World War II, the Great Depression, countless times of civil rights unrest, wars in both Korea and Vietnam, and much more.

Mount Union was founded in 1846, 15 years before the start of the Civil War in April 1861. Around this time, planning began on the Mount Union campus for a three-story building with an observatory. Construction was to begin in January 1862 and be completed by August 1863. It appears that 1862 had much in common with 2020. Issues of race, centered on slavery, had launched a war that would claim 620,000 soldier lives. Disease, which claimed even more soldier lives

than combat, was rampant throughout the country. The history of the college notes that a group of students in an "open and defiant manner" displayed a "spirit of general insubordination to the college authority." Students were to remain on campus and could be expelled for venturing into the town of Alliance. It was, generally, a most challenging time to contemplate moving forward with a large construction project, especially without labor to build, construction materials, or any significant amount of money.

Mount Union's founder and first president, Orville Nelson Hartshorn, who led the institution during this tumultuous time, stated, "The school is a community, and should be a model of the society for which it is to prepare and fit the minds of its members... All youth of either sex, and of whatever rank or condition, have a natural and equal right to the full and harmonious education of all their faculties." Women comprised one-fourth of the student body in the early years. He called for the new select school to be a place "where men and women could be educated with equal opportunity, where science would parallel the humanities, where laboratory and experimental subjects would receive proper emphasis, and where there would be no distinction due to race, color, sex or position." After 174 years, Hartshorn's vision for the select school that is now the University of Mount Union remains forward-looking and inspirational, calling us to work collaboratively.

In a show of unity and cooperation, the people of Alliance believed in the importance of education, and while they were not completely in agreement with the Methodist traditions, they provided labor, materials, and financial support to the project, which was completed in 1864.

Returning to 2020, it is an honor to have followed 12 presidents who moved Mount Union College forward to become the University of Mount Union. Thousands of students, faculty, staff, coaches, alumni, donors, trustees, and community friends have turned Hartshorn's vision into a strong reality. Faced with both a global pandemic and

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**"Many may conclude that this is the most difficult and challenging time to be a president. I don't believe that to be true."**

**- President Tom Botzman**

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continued civil unrest stemming from racism, we are faced with many choices. We are committed to teaching students, as we have been each year since 1846, to the very best of our ability. Our faculty are meeting our students in person and online, working diligently to transform recent high school graduates into accomplished university graduates who embody our mission "to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship."

This year is indeed one of the most difficult times for our communities and our nation. As we struggle with two deadly viruses, COVID-19 and racism, we must find the will and ambition to continue to move forward through education of our present and future students. Taking our lessons from the very ambitious residents of Alliance in the 1860s, we will continue to aspire to the greater good promised of higher education. We will celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> year in 2021 and anticipate it to be a start to an even more promising future. ■



## MOUNT UNION CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AS A U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT TOP COLLEGE

With the announcement of the 2021 rankings, Mount Union has been recognized as a top college by U.S. News and World Report for 30 consecutive years.

Mount Union was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> among Midwest Regional Colleges in U.S. News and World Report's 2021 Best Colleges rankings, up three spots from the 2020 rankings. The Midwest Regional category includes institutions from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The institution was also ranked 15<sup>th</sup> for Best Value in the region and fourth in the state of Ohio. This ranking takes into account the ratio of quality to price, the percentage of undergraduates that receive need-based aid, and the total scholarship/need-based aid received by students.

Mount Union was also once again ranked as a Top Performer on Social Mobility, which was introduced by U.S. News and World Report as part of its 2020 rankings. The ranking measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants.

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*"Being ranked by U.S. News and World Report for 30 consecutive years is a rewarding testament to the University's commitment to past, current, and future Purple Raiders."*

**- President Tom Botzman**

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## MOUNT UNION NURSES ACHIEVE 100% LICENSURE PASS RATE ONCE AGAIN

For the third time in the past four years, graduates of Mount Union's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program achieved a 100% first-time passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

Every student who has graduated from Mount Union's BSN program has passed the NCLEX, with more than 99% passing the exam on the first time in the history of the program. The overall first-time pass rate is at the top in the region and drastically surpasses the state average of 86.25% and the national average of 91.22%.

"To our most recent alumni we, your Department of Nursing faculty and University family, could not be prouder of you," said Dr. Tim Meyers, professor and chair of the Department of Nursing at Mount Union. "In a time that will go down as



one of, if not the most, challenging academic periods in his history, you demonstrated what it means to be a Purple Raider. You are proof that the best nurses wear purple."





## AKRON NORTH WELCOMES MOUNT UNION AS A SISTER UNIVERSITY

Mount Union is proud to announce its unique partnership with Akron Public Schools' Akron North High School as a sister university.

As a sister university, Mount Union will work closely with the school and teachers to develop classroom lessons that have integrated, career-themed content; design and present problem-based learning opportunities that incorporate thought-provoking, real-world problem-solving activities; and support the implementation of a college admission testing preparation program.

“A sister university greatly enhances the academic experience for our students. We are thrilled at the news that the University of Mount Union has agreed to partner with us at North High School,” said Superintendent David James. “We feel this is going to be an effective approach to our students’ path toward higher learning.”

The collaboration between Akron Public Schools and Mount Union was formed with the help of the United Way of Summit County. The United Way serves as a link between the College and Career Academies of Akron and local businesses to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and to strengthen the education-to-employment pipeline in Summit County.

## FULLY-ONLINE MBA EARNS HLC, ODHE APPROVAL; APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Mount Union is pleased to announce its fully-online Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program has earned approval from the Higher Learning Commission and Ohio Department of Higher Education. The program is slated to begin in May of 2021, and applications are now being accepted.

“It is always beneficial when we can introduce new offerings to help graduate students seeking career advancement,” said Mount Union President Tom Botzman. “We recognize that earning this approval is a privilege, and Mount Union will provide an exceptional academic experience to those professionals placing their trust in us.”

The MBA program has been developed on the historical success of Mount Union’s business-related programs. Currently, nearly 15% of all undergraduate students are enrolled in a major offered by Mount Union’s Department of Business, accredited by the Accreditation of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Mount Union’s business programs were ranked in the top 10% of all programs nationally for best value in College Factual’s 2021 rankings, with the marketing program being named the best value in Ohio.

Learn more about the programs and apply today by visiting [mountunion.edu/mba-business-analytics](http://mountunion.edu/mba-business-analytics) or [mountunion.edu/mba-leadership-and-innovation](http://mountunion.edu/mba-leadership-and-innovation).

“We are excited to be launching the MBA program and look forward to welcoming our first cohort of students. In today’s rapidly-evolving business and social environments, our program offers flexibility and affordability, providing opportunities for working professionals to accelerate their careers by expanding their knowledge base and skill sets.”



- Dr. Anne Christo-Baker

Professor and Chair, Department of Business

Read more about Mount Union’s graduate program success on page 10.



## A LOVE STORY AND LEGACY: DAVE '62 AND KAREN (ANDERSON '69) JONES

Standing in his fraternity brother's doorway at the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) house one day, Dave Jones '62 happened to look out the window and noticed the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. He made a mental note to look her up.

The next day, Dave and fraternity brother Bob Berrodin '62 walked into a local diner, and there the woman was again.

"I felt it was a sign," Dave said. "I didn't know who she was, but I wanted to."

Dave went back to the ATO house and started looking through the directory. He finally found her photo and learned her name was Karen Anderson '69, but he did not know where she was staying on campus.

"I just started calling the women's dorms and asking for Karen Anderson until I got the right one," Dave laughed.

Dave and Karen went to a Mount Union basketball game for their first date. At the time, Karen had a cold, but Dave said he really wanted to give her a kiss good-night. The next day, he woke up with the cold. Karen and Dave would laugh about this for years to come. By the third date, Dave said he knew he had to have Karen in his life for the long haul.

Karen and Dave were married his senior year and had their first son, Brian, just ten months later. Dave's career in pharmaceutical sales moved their family all over the country, but he said Karen was "a trooper" and helped make each new house their home. Over the next decade, Karen and Dave welcomed three more

sons into the world. First Scott, then Derek, and finally their youngest son, Craig. Between their four sons, the Joneses have nine grandchildren ages four to 26 of whom they are so proud.

Sadly, Karen was diagnosed with dementia in 2001. Dave kept her at their home in North Canton, Ohio for many years, but after a while, it became too difficult to look after her. Dave moved Karen to a memory care unit about two years ago.

This past spring, COVID-19 hit the facility, and Karen contracted the virus. Dave begged the administration to let him sign a waiver to go in and hold Karen one last time, but they would not allow it. Dave did not want Karen to be alone in her last moments. He felt heaven granted him this wish. He connected with the facility's head nurse who spoke to Dave on the phone and held Karen's hand as she took her last breaths.

"I received 104 sympathy cards after she passed. They were comforting me, but they were honoring Karen," Dave said. "She was a bright light in so many people's lives. I always told her she had a helper gene. She put everyone else's needs before her own. She was an incredible person."

True to her selfless nature, Karen made Mount Union the beneficiary of a life



insurance policy to support current and future Raiders upon her passing. The Karen Jones Endowed Scholarship will benefit students for years to come. Dave has also made provisions in his will to add to the scholarship.

Though Dave notes that he appreciated his Mount Union experience, his professors and friends, loves the Raider community, and always enjoys coming back to football games, he said Karen is who inspires him to stay connected and give back.

"Mount Union is where I found her," Dave said. "We maintained coming back and forth for sports and events, but Karen was the draw. No doubt about it."



# CAMPAIGN GOAL

**\$10 MILLION  
EXCELLENCE**  
Facility, classroom,  
and lab enhancements

**\$7 MILLION  
INNOVATION**  
Academic and  
co-curricular programs



**\$8 MILLION  
MOUNT UNION FUND**  
Annual support for areas  
of immediate need

**\$25 MILLION  
OPPORTUNITY**  
Scholarships and  
financial assistance

# CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

**\$12.3 MILLION  
EXCELLENCE**

**\$6.5 MILLION  
INNOVATION**



**\$6 MILLION  
MOUNT UNION FUND**

**\$14.8 MILLION  
OPPORTUNITY**

# SAVE THE DATE

Join fellow alumni and friends and the Office of Advancement for a complimentary two-part estate planning and charitable giving educational webinar series.

## ESTATE PLANNING 101

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at noon

## ESTATE PLANNING 201

Thursday January 28, 2021 at 5 p.m.

Discover strategies for benefitting your favorite philanthropic causes, such as Mount Union, while planning for a secure financial future. This event will feature industry leaders and two of Mount Union's own.



Dan Griffith '99, JD  
Senior Vice President and  
Director of Wealth Strategy at  
Huntington Bank



Jon Cross '03, CFP, CLU, ChFC  
President and Wealth  
Management Advisor at  
The Cross Wealth Management Group

Registration and details to follow.

# AFFORDABLE WAYS TO HELP

*Inspire Minds and Transform Lives*

## INCLUDE MOUNT UNION IN YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST

One of the easiest and most common ways for you to support the future of Mount Union is by remembering us in your will. A bequest allows you to retain ownership and use your property during your life while also benefiting Mount in the future. Ask your attorney to draft a codicil or amendment to an existing document or to include your gift in any new plans.

## NAME MOUNT AS A BENEFICIARY OF A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT

An effective way to support Mount Union, naming us as a beneficiary of your retirement account(s) qualifies as a charitable deduction, thereby saving estate taxes. By avoiding the income taxes on those assets, it relieves your family and loved ones of any future tax burden. Simply contact your administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form, and add Mount Union and the percentage you would like us to receive.

## DESIGNATE US AS A BENEFICIARY OF A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

As an asset of your estate, an insurance policy is taxable at your passing. However, if the policy is a gift to Mount Union, your estate avoids paying taxes on the value of the policy and receives a charitable deduction for the gift. A gift of life insurance can be made by simply naming Mount Union as the beneficiary of your policy and is a low-cost way to make a sizable gift to support our students.

## ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA) AT MOUNT UNION

With a CGA, Mount Union agrees to make fixed payments for life to you or you and your spouse in exchange for a gift of cash or securities. Depending on your gift, you may also enjoy the benefit of mostly tax-free payments. After all payments have been made, Mount Union will receive the remaining value of your gift to continue to help prepare our students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.

## CREATE A CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT) WITH US

The most versatile charitable giving tool, a CRT can help you avoid capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated assets, generate regular increased income for you, provide you with a charitable income tax deduction, and fulfill your philanthropic objectives. In addition, a CRT can make payments to your heirs for their lives or a term of years either through fixed payments or payments based on the market value of the trust each year. Better yet, your CRT will be invested to produce and take advantage of growth opportunities, and additional contributions can be made at any time.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Bethany Leslie, director of The Mount Union Fund and planned giving, at [lesliebe@mountunion.edu](mailto:lesliebe@mountunion.edu) or (330) 823-8440.







# Back for the Future

## *Dr. Tom and Vanessa Botzman return to campus to help lead Mount Union's next generation of students*

The cupola of Chapman Hall sits nearly equidistant from the hometowns of Dr. Tom Botzman and his wife Vanessa, with Tom's native Stow to its north and Vanessa's Boardman Spartans to its east. Thus, it is only fitting that Mount Union has been at the center of their lives for a portion of the past three-plus decades, most recently with Tom taking the reins as the institution's 13<sup>th</sup> president in June.

### **Joining the Mount Union Family**

Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in polymer engineering from Case Western Reserve University, Tom, the inventor of 12 United States patents, began his career at Akron-based Goodyear. While there, he earned a Master of Arts degree in economics and began a Ph.D. in business administration, proving his ability to balance responsibilities early in his career.

As Tom was completing his Ph.D., he was hired in his first role at Mount Union as an instructor of economics and business administration. What followed was a 15-year tenure that found him becoming an integral part of what Mount Union is today.

"I want to express that much of what I loved during my initial time here is still going on today," Tom, Mount Union's 1998 Great Teacher Award Recipient, said. "As we grow as a University, we don't have to part with the ideals of Mount Union College. The generosity of the alumni to donate their time, talent, and treasure is absolutely incredible, and they do it because they love Mount Union."

Tom and Vanessa also understand the importance of the role a university plays within its larger community. A registered nurse, Vanessa volunteered with a free health clinic offering healthcare services to those with employment but no health insurance. As an early adopter of high-impact educational practices, Tom values the significance of international education and service-learning and the impact on both the student experience and enriching the community. In fact, their daughter Gabriela '17 often joined in volunteering from a young age, becoming a sort of prophetic family affair.

### **Purple Raider Parents**

Gabriela was born during Tom and Vanessa's first stint at Mount Union, giving the future Purple Raider a unique viewpoint of Mount Union early on.

"I remember bringing Gabriela to her first Mount Union football game when she was very young, but they lost so we left hoping that we weren't bad luck," Vanessa recalled.

It may seem as though Gabriela was destined for Mount Union, but she and her parents did their due diligence during the college search process, and then some. Searching for a new experience while growing up surrounded by higher education, Gabriela was determined to not go someplace where people already knew her. Quick mental math found Tom remembering 17 different colleges on Gabriela's list that met her criteria, but Vanessa mentioned that their daughter never lost sight of Mount Union because of the campus and commitment to service-learning.



**"As we grow as a University, we don't have to part with the ideals of Mount Union College."**

**- President Tom Botzman**  
pictured above during his first year at  
Mount Union in 1989



“It was great to see that the things I enjoyed as a faculty member were things that Gabriela enjoyed as a student,” Tom said.

An early childhood education graduate and former president of Alpha Chi Omega, Gabriela now teaches second grade at an elementary school in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Though the Botzman parents were a few years removed from their time at Mount Union, they were frequently impressed with the experience Gabriela was receiving.

“Gabriela connected so well with both the faculty in the education program and those in other disciplines on campus,” Vanessa said. “We knew she was well-prepared for anything she wanted to do with her career.”

### Presidential Preparation

Armed with experience as a faculty member and administrator at Mount Union, Tom moved on in 2004 to become the vice president of business and finance at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, where he stayed for nine years.

With knowledge in nearly every area of higher education, including preparing a student for college, Tom was well-equipped to take the next step in his career when he became president of Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania in 2013.

During his service at Misericordia, a private institution of about 2,500 students, Tom 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 constructed a new science center and won many accolades for its successful program in support of single parents.

When the job opened up to succeed Dr. Dick Merriman as president of Mount Union, Tom knew it was a job he wanted and was ready to take it on with the encouragement of former faculty and staff colleagues.

“The Mount Union presidency appealed to me because I knew, after serving 15 years on the faculty, how the strong

## THE BUZZ ON BOTZMAN

Mount Union alumni reflect on their time learning from or working with Dr. Botzman during his initial tenure at Mount Union from 1989 to 2004.

“Dr. Botzman was my LS100 professor and academic advisor. He was genuinely interested in making sure we succeeded as students in and outside of the classroom. He listened and explained quant methods so anyone could understand it. He was a great academic advisor and supported those of us who were studying abroad.”



- Dawn Adams '97

Director of International Student Services  
University of Mount Union

“As a professor and colleague, I remember thinking, ‘I wish I had him when I was a student.’ He was unique in his vision, strategic in his thinking, ambitious in his actions, and definitely persuasive in his professional development and research. He created environments that were warm and open to diverse thoughts and populations. He always had a sense of humor.”



- Rachelle (Isles '90) Brown  
Network Security Professional

“I was going to say that my favorite memory was Dr. Botzman inviting me to return to Mount Union after graduating to speak to one of his classes about career planning and what life was like in the corporate world. However, Dr. Botzman brought back the memory of me blocking his shot in a basketball game, so as a former 6'6" Mount Union basketball player... I'll go with the blocked shot!”



- Will McIntyre '93  
Manager, Business Analytics  
Goodyear

“Both Dr. Botzman and Mrs. Lloyd, an accounting professor, really changed the entire path of my life with their support and encouragement throughout my time at Mount. The two of them were quite a team and truly cared about me making the most of my future. Their nicknames were, and still are, Mama Lloyd and Papa Botzman. Because of their guidance and belief, I knocked on doors that I never knew existed.”



- Kelly (Pfund '92) Stalls  
Financial Services Professional



academic and co-curricular programs supported the mission of preparing students for fulfilling lives,” Tom said.

### Looking Ahead

When asked what they were most looking forward to over the course of the next few years, Tom and Vanessa both shared one thought without hesitation: a sense of normalcy. Changing jobs during a pandemic is one thing, but moving hundreds of miles away to lead a university brings its own set of challenges.

“We have always gone to as many things as we could on campus,” Vanessa said. “From athletics and performing arts to just being present for people. It’s a much more difficult adjustment during times like these.”

“It’s all about building relationships,” Tom added. “For some of our alumni, these virtual events and meetings are just not feasible. It makes it challenging for us to interact with and get to know everyone who engages with Mount Union, but we want to continue to do the best that we can to do so.”

Part of Tom’s vision is to expand teaching to include more high-impact learning opportunities, preparing students for collaboration with their peers and communities upon graduation. While the diversity of the campus community has grown since 2004, Tom, who with Vanessa has volunteered to be a host family for international students in the past, knows Mount Union has progress to make in supporting students of all backgrounds.

“The campus still has room to grow in terms of diversity and inclusion,” he said. “We have absolutely made progress, but there is far more that we can do and far more that I would like to do.”

The Botzmans are ready to take on anything thrown their way to better assist and lead the Mount Union community, for which they are well prepared after beginning a presidency in a pandemic. Their more than 20 years of Mount Union affiliation from various perspectives has them ready to lay the foundation for the next generation of Purple Raider alumni. ■



“Gabriela connected so well with both the faculty in the education program and those in other disciplines on campus. We knew she was well-prepared for anything she wanted to do with her career.”

- Vanessa Botzman

On daughter Gabriela’s ’17 time as a Mount Union undergraduate





As Mount Union finds itself less than one year away from its 175<sup>th</sup> year, recent adaptation has been necessary to lay the groundwork for the next 175 and beyond. In the past decade, graduate programs have gone from forward-thinking endeavors to foundational components of Mount Union's academic offerings.

As undergraduate demographics continue to decline in the Midwest, the additional attention paid to graduate programs has been a successful strategy for the institution. Since 2013, Mount Union's graduate student enrollment has increased by 142%, enrolling students from 14 different states across its three existing graduate programs: Master of Science in physician assistant studies, Master of Education, and Doctor of Physical Therapy.

"Graduate work was first offered at Mount Union in 1872. So, graduate education is not an entirely new imprint for our institution," said Dr. Jeffrey Breese, vice president of academic affairs and provost. "Tamerlane Pliny Marsh served as the second president of then Mount Union College, and he was an early champion of graduate education here. I have to believe he would be very pleased and honored to see his vision from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century being embraced and realized."

Now, with the addition of a fully-online Master of Business Administration degree approved by the Higher Learning Commission and Ohio Department of Higher Education (see page 3), and the potential for a Master of Science in exercise and nutrient metabolism awaiting appropriate approvals, continued graduate program success seems imminent.



## Physician Assistant Studies

- First cohort: **2010**
- Total number of graduates: **309**  
(including 54 Mount Union undergraduate alumni)
- Accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

The PA program has consistently been ranked in the top three in Ohio each year since 2014 by *U.S. News and World Report* and has had a 98% first-time passage rate on the PANCE exam since 2015.

*"The program has an excellent reputation. One of the most impactful aspects of Mount Union's program is its emphasis on professionalism. I felt prepared to successfully interview and enter the workforce."*

**-Meghan Byram M'18**

Clinical Care PA, Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, Ohio

**Learn more:**

[mountunion.edu/graduate-degrees](http://mountunion.edu/graduate-degrees)



# Graduate Program Success



## Physical Therapy

- First cohort: **2016**
- Total number of graduates: **56**  
(including three Mount Union undergraduate alumni)
- Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

Mount Union's first doctoral degree, the PT program has filled nearly every available seat to students since its inception. Utilizing the state-of-the-art facilities of Gallaher Hall, its students have hands-on experiences to prepare them for the field.

*"Mount Union's PT program is so different from the rest because the professors are so dedicated to the students and it shows. I am from Illinois, and I didn't really want to go far from family, but I knew this was the place for me!"*

**-Victoria Van Cura D'22**  
Physical Therapy Student

## Master of Education

- First cohort: **2013**
- Total number of graduates: **105**  
(including 60 Mount Union undergraduate alumni)
- Accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

Education has been one of Mount Union's largest and most successful programs for decades, and the M.Ed. degree has continued that trend. With three annual cohort options, four concentrations, and a fully-online curriculum, 2020 found more professionals enrolled in the M.Ed. than ever before.

*"Mount Union has a very special place in my heart, and Purple Raiders are well known across the country. The professors are extremely positive and passionate about what they do."*

**- Joshua Chadima '13, M'18**  
Content Teacher, High School Football and Basketball Coach,  
Manchester Local Schools



A portrait of Kayla Young, a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a blue and white vertically striped, off-the-shoulder top. She has large hoop earrings and a necklace with a small pendant. Her hands are in her pockets.

**Kayla Young M'22**

*Elyria, Ohio*

*Physician Assistant Studies,  
University of Mount Union*

*M.S., Clinical Exercise Physiology, Ohio University  
B.S., Exercise Physiology, Ohio University*



Kayla Young wants to help people. That much she seems to have known for most of her life. Yet it was not until halfway through her undergraduate career at Ohio University that she realized her calling as a physician assistant (PA).

Majoring in exercise physiology, the Northeast Ohio native worked as a medical scribe at University Hospitals to bolster her résumé and gain valuable experience prior to graduating. Having the opportunity to work hands-on with a variety of medical professionals solidified Young's future career path.

"I worked with physicians, nurses, EMTs, and other members of the healthcare team. Still, it was a PA that showed me the importance of being an expert in medicine and how to treat patients in any situation compassionately," Young said. "I knew that I wanted to work in medicine, but this interaction sparked the fire in me wanting to be a PA."

Upon earning a Master of Science degree in clinical exercise physiology from her undergraduate alma mater, as well as becoming a certified clinical exercise physiologist from the American College of Sports Medicine, Young took the next step and applied to Mount Union's Physician Assistant Studies program. Though she is only a few courses into her time at Mount Union, with some of those courses being offered in a virtual setting, she has already developed meaningful relationships.

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**"I believe the PA profession has a unique role in enacting significant changes within healthcare and other structural systems that negatively affect social determinants of health."**

**- Kayla Young**

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"My first interview was with Professor (Roger) Kunes, and I was extremely nervous," Young said. "Professor Kunes recognized my nervousness, made eye contact that made it feel like he was looking into my soul, and said 'It's okay to be nervous, we understand. Just remember that we are here to get to know you, but you are also here to get to know us.' In that moment, I felt seen. I was more than my GPA, GRE score, and patient care experience."

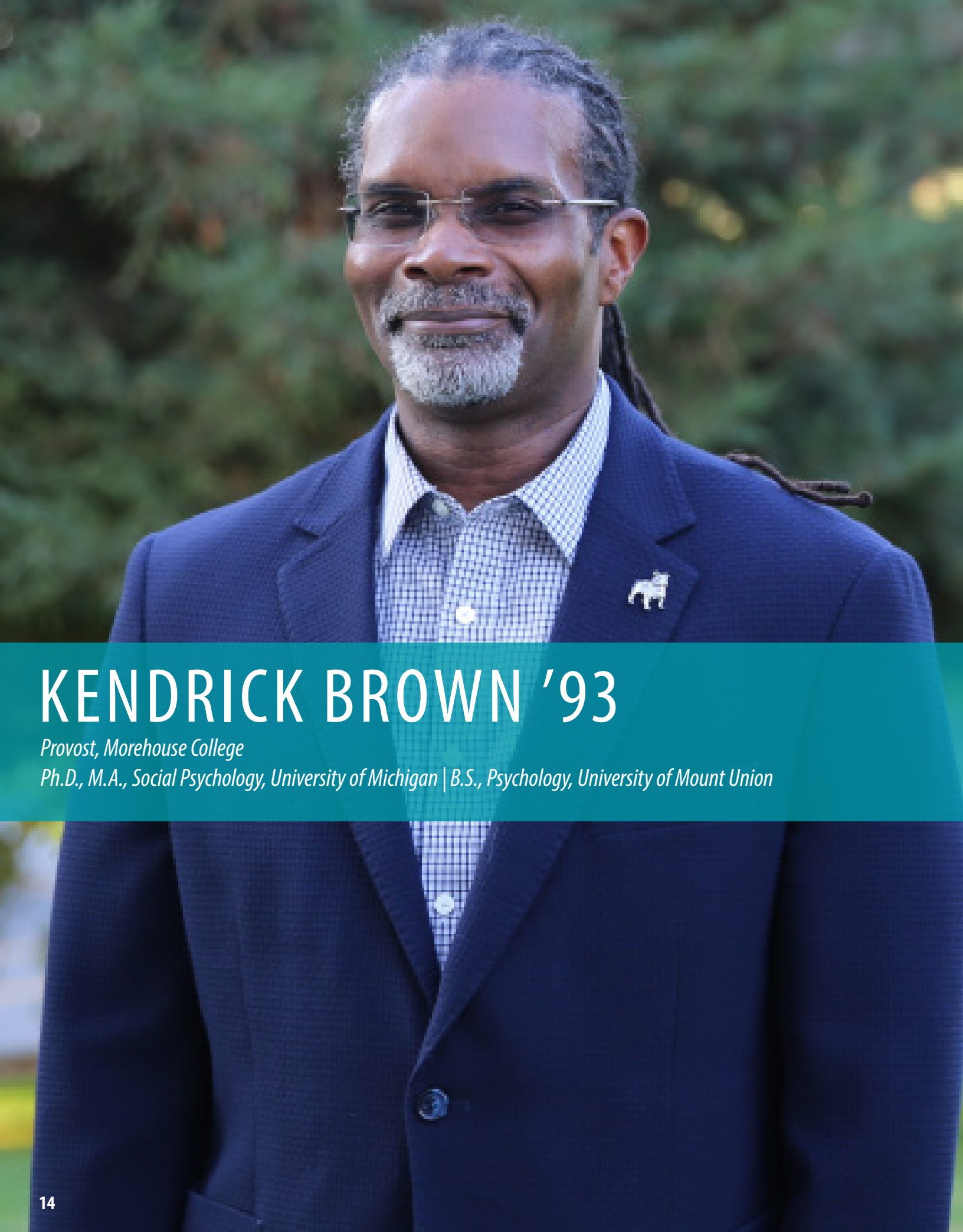
Young's ultimate career goal, and what she describes as her purpose as a human and future PA, is to be an advocate for disenfranchised populations. While at University Hospitals, she witnessed firsthand how urban and underserved communities can struggle with healthcare providers to get the care that they need to survive and thrive. During a study abroad experience in Cuba in 2017, she learned more about the coun-



try's nationalized healthcare system, giving her a breadth of understanding when it came to patient care.

Currently, Young is doing her part to be a leader in both the Black and PA communities. The capstone for her aforementioned master's degree was an in-depth analysis on hypertension in African Americans, and she is the founder and co-chair of the national PA student organization named Physician Assistant Students for Leadership, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Diversity (PA-S LEAD).

"I believe the PA profession has a unique role in enacting significant changes within healthcare and other structural systems that negatively affect social determinants of health," Young said. "We hope to create positive change within PA academia and support underrepresented minority students." ■



# KENDRICK BROWN '93

*Provost, Morehouse College*

*Ph.D., M.A., Social Psychology, University of Michigan | B.S., Psychology, University of Mount Union*



Kendrick Brown chose Mount Union as he sought a challenge academically. Not only was this request for a challenge fulfilled, but the institution also provided Brown with his initial leadership opportunities. Although he was unaware of it at the time, his decision to choose a challenge would aid him in his journey to become provost at Morehouse College.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Brown decided to attend Mount Union after receiving a Presidential Scholarship and being able to experience campus during his initial visit. During his early days at Mount, Brown was elected president of the freshman honors society, Alpha Lambda Delta; this would be the beginning of Brown's efforts to develop his leadership. His extracurricular learning came through leadership opportunities in student organizations and student government positions, including Mount Union's Black Student Union.

"I connected with the campus when I came to visit. It was the little things that added up, and it just made sense," Brown said. "Little did I know that getting a liberal arts education would be the focus of what I would do for just about the rest of my life."

Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science in psychology with the support of advisor Dr. Steven Kramer, Brown went on to earn his Master of Arts degree and doctorate in psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Although Brown had been accepted into multiple Ivy League schools, Michigan stood out to him because there were prominent Black alumni in the field of psychology who began their journeys at Michigan.

characteristics of an effective ally, you have to determine how this ally's relationship benefits underrepresented populations."

With a solid base in leadership and beginning his research in allyship, Brown was now off to continue his professional journey. After his time at Michigan, Brown went on to Macalester College where he taught as a tenured professor of psychology and was eventually promoted to associate dean of the faculty.

"When I was in grad school, I asked myself, 'What is it that I want to do when I have my degree?'" Brown said. "And my thought went back to Mount Union again. What kind of education did I get? I got an education that allowed me to interact with faculty and enjoy a small campus experience, and this led to what I want to do."

With 18 years of experience and continued development of his leadership skills in faculty and administrative roles, Brown went on to become the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Redlands. Through this rich experience, Brown felt prepared to take the next step in his journey with his current role as provost at Morehouse.

"As a leader, you have to know what things you personally have to touch and the things that require you to simply interact with people who you trust to accomplish them," explained Brown. "The roots of my leadership expression started at Mount Union in having the various leadership opportunities in student organizations. What does it take to lead? What's the work you have to do?"

# A JOURNEY WELL TRAVELED

*Utilizing Leadership and Allyship as Building Blocks to Success*

{BY DARNELL TUCKER '15}

## **Impactful Research**

Brown's graduate research focused on allyship and attempting to understand the conditions in which people who have different social statuses effectively interact and learn from others. Traditionally, allyship is discussed from the perspective of a majority population and how they can become allies to those of a minority population. But Brown had an interesting take on allyship that had not been brought to light in the field of psychology. This led him to research allyship from the perspective of people of color.

"You can think of allies as having two kinds of essential characteristics – interpersonal support, which determines an ally's affiliation and how supportive and non-judgmental the ally is, and informed action, which is being an ally that does something in their own community and not just when they are around people of color," Brown said. "When looking at the

How can you be responsive to the people who are looking for you to lead? These are the experiences that prepared me."

## **Advice to Future Leaders**

Brown's advice to future leaders is to note that leadership will look different to everyone. Effective leaders give their time and energy to provide the small things such as just being present in spaces where you can provide assistance. Brown notes that valuable experience along the journey involves including other people by participating in organizations and being open to replacing "I" with "we."

"If your notion of leadership is myopic, you miss the opportunity to connect with people, to learn from other people, challenge yourself, and expand who you are," Brown said. "We need a multi-faceted complex notion of leadership that is expansive enough that many of us can experience it." ■

# H O P

## *Dreams*

# WINNERS



CHICAGO

### **Robyn Brown '17**

*Team Reporter and Marketing Coordinator,  
Connecticut Sun and  
New England Black Wolves  
M.A., Sport Journalism,  
Quinnipiac University  
B.A., Integrated Media, Sport Business,  
University of Mount Union*





Basketball has been a passion of Robyn Brown's since her youth. The former Purple Raider forward was humble enough to know early on that she was not going to play professionally in the WNBA, but that did not stop her from becoming part of the WNBA family and being involved in one of the most notable seasons in the history of the league.

Brown's path to the pros began at Mount Union, but the Los Angeles native had to first discover where Mount Union even was before her journey began.

"I knew I wanted a smaller school where I could play basketball and be part of Greek life," Brown said. "My dad found out about Mount through (college readiness software) Naviance, and Coach Suzy (Venet '98) Pietz called me and had me on campus for a recruiting visit. I definitely had the cliché, 'Oh it feels like home!' moment, but that's important when you're moving more than 2,000 miles away."

Still wanting to have a career on the hardwood, Brown decided to major in integrated media and sport business with broadcast aspirations in mind. Engaging with sport business alumni and having a network of sisters in Alpha Delta Pi gave Brown a wealth of meaningful connections when she walked across the Commencement stage.

"Something that was really cool for me when I was at Mount was when ESPN's Toni Collins '03 came back and visited campus, and I got to meet her with Dr. (Jim) Thoma," Brown said. "She was someone who sat in the same chairs I had, with the same dreams, doing what I hoped to one day achieve. It was great to have a visible female figure who came from this small school and made it to a large stage."

### **Incredible Internship**

Less than 20 miles from the SportsCenter desk behind which Collins spends most of her mornings is Quinnipiac University, at which Brown enrolled to earn a Master of Arts in sport journalism. Her academic advisor knew Brown's career aspirations and set Brown up on a phone call with a colleague she knew at the Connecticut Sun.

"I had no idea who she was going to set me up with, but I said 'Absolutely, I'll take the phone call,'" Brown said. "The woman on the other line happened to be the vice president of the organization, Amber Cox. Once I sent her my demo reel and other information, she called me back later that night and said the internship would be mine if I wanted it."

The internship involved being the sideline reporter for the WNBA franchise, a position that had not existed prior to the 2018 season. Her first day on the job, the former college basketball player found herself working a broadcast with Rebecca Lobo, a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Brown was so successful in her internship that Cox called her when it had concluded and indicated that, should she want it, the job would be hers full-time when she graduated nine months later.

Brown has also been able to expand her broadcasting portfolio to the growing sport of lacrosse. The New England Black Wolves, members of the National Lacrosse League and owned by the same group as the Sun, needed a reporter, and Cox approached Brown for the job. With the Mount Union lacrosse program only having been in its infancy during Brown's undergraduate career, the sideline storyteller immersed herself into learning the sport and successfully made it through her first season in 2019.

### **Life in the "Wubble"**

Just as she had begun to hit her stride in her second WNBA season, the coronavirus pandemic swept the world. The WNBA followed the lead of the NBA and committed itself to safely continuing and concluding its season in a monitored "bubble," known as the "Wubble," in Bradenton, Florida. With an emotional backdrop of not only the coronavirus, but also protests against systemic racism following the death of George Floyd, Brown was at the epicenter of some of the more influential moments in the 23-year history of the league.

"As a white woman who comes from a privileged background, the experience of being in the Wubble and part of conversations about Black lives and systemic racism was eye-opening," Brown said. "To listen to a player on my team say she gets nervous walking through the grocery store just because of the way she looks made me get closer to understanding things I would have never thought about."

With that emotion and the condensed, frenetic game schedule, Brown described the 86-day experience as exhausting at times, but one of the most rewarding experiences of her life.

Though Brown may not be playing professionally, her career as a media professional has only just begun. Working for a team whose nickname is the "Sun," it makes perfect sense that it has a bright, rising star telling its stories to the masses. ■



# CLASS NOTES

Class Notes to be included in the Spring/Summer 2021 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before April 30, 2021.

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](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) or the form found at [mountunion.edu/alumni](http://mountunion.edu/alumni).

## 1950s

**George Ditch '57** recently retired and moved to Palm Springs, California after living in Mexico for 16 years.

**Martha (Purviance '58) Sax** of Portland, Maine is volunteering as a foster grandparent for a local first grade class.

## 1960s

**Julie Cummins '61** wrote an article that was featured in the Fall 2020 issue of *Life in the Finger Lakes*, titled "Tomboy of the Air."

## 1970s

**Tom Berlin '73** of Matthews, North Carolina recently retired from RSA Insurance as global claim manager after 47 years.



**David Joachim '73** of Boardman, Ohio recently retired as a Presbyterian pastor (PCUSA). He is now a YMCA swim instructor and lifeguard with four children and six grandchildren.



**Albert Smith '77** retired from Malone University after 37 years as a member of the accounting faculty. He was granted emeritus status and received the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching.



## 1980s

**Jim "Lep" Durham '82** of Columbus, Ohio recently retired from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

**Tom Maderia '80** recently won his 200<sup>th</sup> game as a head football coach in New Jersey when Burlington Township defeated Highland 14-7 on October 25, 2019.

**Bonnie (Rockenbaugh '80) Rodenberger** shared a photo of her Mount Union family; pictured (l-r) are her daughter,



**Christy (Rodenberger '04) Miller**, Bonnie, and her son-in-law, **Nate Williams '07**. Nate is married to Bonnie's youngest daughter Mary Catherine.

## 1990s

**Bret Adams '90** was recently named a regular contributor for *Vintage Guitar* magazine, sold in mainstream bookstores nationwide. He is also a recruiting specialist with Ohio Means Jobs Stark County.

**Cenell (Munford '93) Boch** recently published a book, *Living with the Double D's — Surviving Depression and Divorce*. It is available for purchase on Amazon.



**David Edwards '98** leads Education International, a global teaching union organization comprised of 32 million teachers and other educators affiliated with unions and associations in 173 countries.



**Danielle (Penturf '94) Lamphier** of Winston-Salem, North Carolina recently accepted a position as CEO of Sneez, LLC, makers of Sneez, a real-time illness tracking app.



**Kimberly (Helwig '97)**

**Stanislo** earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from The Ohio State University in May 2019. She is a clinical assistant professor at Ashland University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences and serves as the program director for the graduate school nursing program.

## 2000s

**Chad Baddeley '00** and his wife Shelby announce the birth of a daughter, Addilyn Sue, on June 17, 2020.



**Zachary Bolitho '04** of Raleigh, North Carolina has joined Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP as of counsel in its White Collar and Criminal Defense Group.

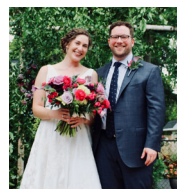


In addition to his of counsel role at CSH Law, he is an associate professor of law at Campbell University School of Law in Raleigh, where he teaches federal criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, and trial advocacy.

**Erin Crandall '08** was named to Toledo's 20 Under 40 listing in October 2020. She manages roughly \$1 billion in sales annually at one of Dana Incorporated's largest facilities and is responsible for serving customers including Ford and Chrysler, as well as providing strategic financial leadership.



**Maria Fesz '09** married Jesse Friedberg on September 12, 2020. Ketubah signers included **Alicia (Bousner '10) Hrubey**. The couple currently resides in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.





# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

**Matt Hadgis '06** and wife Sandra announce the birth of a daughter, Clara, on November 28, 2019.

*Correction: The Spring/Summer 2020 issue incorrectly spelled Matt's last name in recognizing his company, Qwickly.*



**Sarah (Brockett '09)** and **Ryan '09 McFeely** announce the birth of a daughter, Lillian Mae, on September 5, 2020. She joins siblings Brooke, 10 and Addy, 8.



**Jennifer (Bixler '05)** and **Kyle Miller** announce the birth of a daughter, Evie Jean, on June 5, 2020. Evie joins sibling Elenore, 3.



**Katie Hopkins '05** and **Ben Gabelman** were married August 10, 2020 in Chicago, Illinois. Katie is the daughter of **Marcia (Burr '76)** and **Kirk Hopkins** and the niece of **Marc '73 Burr** and **Nan (Foster '75) Burr**. The couple resides in Chicago.



**Courtney (Sattler '04) Rees** was recently published in the Summer/Fall edition of the Ohio Journal of English and Language Arts. Her article was titled *An Empty Building Awaits*.

**Mark '05** and **Laura (Vesco '05) Hubert**, announce the birth of a son, Kade Kenneth, born June 16, 2020.



**Amanda (Chick '06)** and **Joe '08 Rettig** announce the adoption of a son, Jay Sutton. He joins siblings Owen, 9, Graham, 7, and Reid, 5.



**Donna (Dercoli '00)** and **Daniel Rogers** announce the adoption of two children, Aniyah, 8 and K'ream, 7.



**Thomas Jefferson '03** of Stow, Ohio recently earned a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Kent State University.



**Elizabeth (Hadgis '09)** and **James Kirby**, announce the birth of a son, Andrew, born July 6, 2020. Andrew joins sibling Henry, 4.



**Angela LoBue '09** and **Thomas O'Donnell, Jr.** were married on August 1, 2020 in Cleveland, Ohio.



## 2010s

**Gina (Mayer '11)** and **David '11 Keifer** announce the birth of a daughter, Kennedy, born June 10, 2020.



**Chelsey (Bruce '14)** and **Matthew '14 Kirkland**, announce the birth of a son, Daniel, on July 3, 2020.



**Michelle (Bryan '12)** and **Josh Kosko**, announce the birth of a son, Samuel Joseph, on March 18, 2020.



As the fall academic semester draws to a close, I can't help but reflect on how the campus community (especially the administration, faculty, staff, and students)

adjusted to the current environment in which we find ourselves. Their actions are a clear example of how we as a Mount Union community (and family) can band together to get through any challenges and obstacles we face!

While not the way we had hoped to celebrate Alumni Weekend and Homecoming, I hope you were able to join us in celebrating our Virtual Alumni Week back in October. Throughout the week, we were able to celebrate our alma mater through campus videos and messages, announcements of the recipients of the Dodie Davis '62 Alumni Service Award, McKinley Fellow Award, Young Alumni Award, and Susie (Oberholzer '73) Buckel Alumni Association Scholarship recipients, along with a Run-A-MUC Virtual 5K, reunion celebrations, and regional club gatherings, among many other highlights.

I want to close by offering my deepest thanks for the support of all of our alumni. Throughout the course of the past several months, we've seen so many alumni offering their support when it is most critically needed for Mount Union students. Support received through donations to The Mount Union Fund, Dick Merriman and Margot Kelman President's Rescue Fund, Student Emergency Fund, and other giving areas are being immediately put to use to support students. On behalf of the Alumni Association and Mount Union, I thank you for your continued commitment, your loyalty, and your support!

With Purple Raider Pride,

- **Chad Johnson '07**  
Alumni Association President



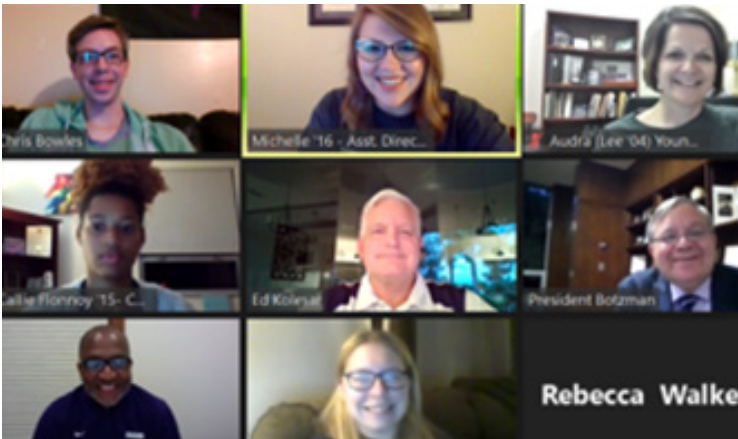
Alumni across the country joined the University for a Virtual Alumni Week celebration – October 4-10, 2020 – for online events that incorporated tradition with new and exciting updates! From gatherings and reunions to virtual tours and cooking demonstrations, hundreds of alumni participated from the comfort of their homes, reconnecting and engaging with fellow Mount Union family members. In addition, Alumni Weekend and Homecoming favorites – the Run-A-MUC 5K race and 2020 Alumni Awards – were part of the celebration. While the institution missed the opportunity to welcome its alumni and friends to campus in person, it was great to connect in a manner that ensured the safety and well-being of the entire community.



BLACK STUDENT UNION REUNION



NEW ENGLAND GATHERING



PRIDE REUNION



CLASS OF 1975 REUNION





CAMPUS TOUR



COOKING WITH AVI



## 2020 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

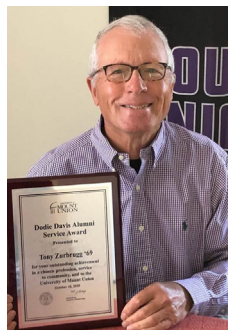
As part of Virtual Alumni Week, the Office of Alumni Engagement recognized the 2020 Alumni Award Recipients through a web page and series of videos honoring the winners. All videos and acceptance letters can be viewed at: [mountunion.edu/virtual-alumni-week-2020](http://mountunion.edu/virtual-alumni-week-2020).

### DODIE DAVIS ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

The Alumni Service Award was established in 1942 and is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in a chosen profession and for service to the community or to the University of Mount Union. The award represents the highest non-academic honor an alumnus/alumna can receive from Mount Union. In 2003, the award was renamed in honor of Dodie Davis '62 for her 35 years of service and dedication to the institution.



Debbly (Fish '69)  
Rowland



Tony Zurbrugg '69

### MCKINLEY FELLOW AWARD

The McKinley Fellow Award is named for former U.S. President William McKinley, who was a member of the Mount Union Board of Trustees and worked as a friend of the University for many years. This award honors a select group of individuals who have had a significant impact on Mount Union as non-alumni.



Blaine Lewis,  
Physical Plant Director

### YOUNG ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

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



Andrew Rothermel '15



**AuBree LaForce '14** was recently named a Piscano Scholar 2020 at NEOMED. She is a fourth-year medical student and one of six scholars chosen this year.



**Jessica (Colby '14) and Gregg Strasser** announce the birth of a daughter, Hattie Faye, on July 10, 2020.



**Wilbur Davidson '52** of Fleming Island, Florida passed away October 13, 2020.

**Lynne (Lehnis '58) Davison**, spouse of **Edward "Ted" Davison '62**, of Pinehurst, North Carolina passed away August 22, 2020.

**Lauren (Shaub '10) and Brian '10 Mogs** announce the birth of a son, Maverick, on April 24, 2020. He joins sibling Madison, nearly 2.



**Josh '14 and Stephanie Winn**, announce the birth of a daughter, Rylee Jean, on August 23, 2020. She joins siblings Preston, 4, and Weston, 1.



**Joseph Drotovick '51** of Canton, Ohio passed away August 20, 2020.

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

**Raymond Graham '53** of Bradford, Pennsylvania passed away August 31, 2020.

**Jessica Moracz '16, M'19 and Shawn Collins '15, M'19** were married on June 19, 2020 in Longboat Key, Florida.

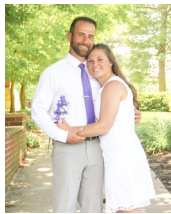


**Christina Woofter '13** recently started as an attending physician at the Akron Children's Pediatrics office in Tallmadge, Ohio after completing her pediatric residency at Akron Children's Hospital.

**Carl Johnson '57** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away October 22, 2020.

**William Long '55** of Brooklyn, NY passed away August 29, 2020.

**Kaylah Nieschwitz '15 and Alexander Shaheen '11** were married on June 6, 2020. The couple reside in Canton, Ohio.



## 2020s

**Sarah Oakes '20 and Jovan Mirkovic** were married on October 24, 2020. The couple reside in Parma Heights, Ohio.



**George Mani '50** of Canton, Ohio passed away August 20, 2020. George was preceded in death by his wife **Martha (Zumkehr '50) Mani**.

**Walter Mueller '52** of Westlake, Ohio passed away November 2, 2020.

**Stephanie Porten '13 and Morgan Pritchett** were married on March 24, 2020, "Singin' in the Rain" Day, in a private elopement ceremony on their apartment balcony. The couple resides in Beavercreek, Ohio.



**Ryan '20 and Jennifer Sanderbeck** announce the birth of a daughter, Amelia, on May 22, 2020. She joins sibling Clare, 4.

**Robert Ruth '50** of Alliance, Ohio passed away August 20, 2020.

**Mary (Bennett '50) Scamman** of Pittsfield, Massachusetts passed away September 19, 2020.

**Eva (Laino '15) and Andrew '15 Rothermel** announce the birth of a daughter, Scarlett Grace, on February 25, 2020.



## Deaths

### 1940s

**Ruth Ball '49** of North Canton, Ohio passed away October 1, 2020.

**Betty (Annabell '49) Fiocca** of Akron, Ohio passed away October 21, 2020.

**H. Gene Shafer '51** of Salem, Ohio, spouse of the late **Ruth (Matin '54) Shafer** and father of **Harold Shafer '80** and Carol (Shafer) Brown, passed away September 16, 2020.

**Joy (Colley '58) Silverhart** of Canton, Ohio passed away July 14, 2020.

**Amber (Rinaldi '10) and Dan '10 Schrader** announce the birth of a daughter, Ellie, on August 28, 2020.



### 1950s

**Jerald Baker '55** of Medina, Ohio passed away October 25, 2020.

**Arthur Murray Cunningham '57** of Home- worth, Ohio passed away July 15, 2020.

**Jane (Douglass '51) Staley** of Hagerstown, Maryland passed away August 26, 2020. She is survived by her brother **Samuel Douglass '55** and was preceded in death by her sister **Mary Delle (Douglass '49) Hale**.

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

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



# Mount Union Employees

## Ralph Daily

**Ralph Daily** of Alliance, Ohio passed away November 2, 2020. He was professor emeritus in the Department of Education.

## David Deutsch

**David Deutsch** of Sebring, Ohio passed away October 18, 2020. He taught part time at Mount Union in the early 2000s.

## Patricia Morrow

**Patricia Morrow** of Alliance, Ohio passed away August 13, 2020. She retired in 2010 after 42 years with AVI/food service at Mount Union.

## Thomas John O'Malley

**Thomas John O'Malley** of Louisville, Ohio passed away September 27, 2020. He was an associate professor of mathematics until 2011.

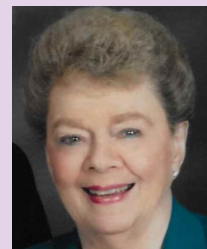
## Mary (Shilts '42) Boster

**Mary (Shilts '42) Boster** of Rohnert Park, California, spouse of the late **Davis "Gene" Boster '42**, passed away August 15, 2020 at the age of 100. A member of the Forever Mount Society, she was one of 16 family members to attend Mount Union, including her father, William 1903, a 53-year member of the Board of Trustees.



## Martha "Nickie" (Nicholson '42) Orwick

**Martha "Nickie" (Nicholson '42) Orwick** of Carmel, Indiana and spouse of the late **Carl Orwick '42**, passed away November 13, 2020. Nickie and Carl are the parents of **Phil Orwick '71** and **Nancy (Orwick '76) McCamon**. She was a sister of Alpha Chi Omega and proudly served in the United States Marine Corps during WWII. Her family is the namesake for Orwick Court located along State Street.



**Robert Smith '53** of Colerain, Ohio passed away September 27, 2020.

**Richard Tickner '55** of Fort Pierce, Florida passed away August 18, 2020.

**Robert Tolle '58** of Statesville, North Carolina passed away October 1, 2020.

**Charles Trettel '59** of Lilburn, Georgia passed away September 28, 2020.

**Ward "Bud" Tuttle '51** of Alliance, Ohio passed away **July 28, 2020**. He was preceded in death by his wife **Arden (Davis '52) Tuttle**.

**Regis Valentine '55** of Old Greenwich, Connecticut passed away October 7, 2020.

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

**Ronald Zimmerman '60** of Dover, Ohio passed away November 2, 2020.

## 1960s

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

**William Clarkson '68** of Newcastle, Indiana passed away August 27, 2020.

**Diane (Bukovinsky '64) Geiger** of Canton, Ohio passed away September 1, 2020. She is survived by her husband **Gilbert Geiger '63**.

**Ralph Hunter '63** of Augusta, Kansas passed away October 2, 2020.

**John Phillippi '63** of Wooster, Ohio passed away September 30, 2020.

**Judith (Kures '67) Treacy** of Stow, Ohio passed away August 10, 2020.

## 1970s

**Joseph Dugan '78** of Louisville, Ohio, formerly of Georgia, passed away October 23, 2020.

**Diana (Gray '77) Fitzenrider** of Concord, North Carolina passed away August 23, 2020.

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

**Kevin Monroe '74** of Navarre, Ohio passed away October 12, 2020.

## 1980s

**R. Bradford Daugstrup '86** of Rocky River, Ohio, passed away October 2, 2020.

**Barbara Watson '87** of Mentor, Ohio passed away August 7, 2020.

**David Williams '80** of Lexington, Maryland passed away September 29, 2020.

## 1990s

**Samuel L. Belden '92** of Cleveland, Ohio, spouse of **Molly (Malloy '93) Belden**, passed away August 11, 2020.

**Anthony Stewart '93** of Martin, Tennessee passed away November 15, 2020.

## Friends

**John Adams** of Braddock, Pennsylvania passed away October 19, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1940s.

**Lloyd Barker** of Alliance, Ohio passed away August 18, 2020. He was the spouse of the late **Evelyn (Shuster '49) Barker** and father of **Janice Barker-McLaughlin '80**.

**Melvin "Nick" Bove, Jr.** of Land O' Lakes, Florida passed away August 8, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

**Jack Dawson** of Canton, Ohio passed away August 11, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1940s when his service was interrupted by WWII.

## Deaths (cont.)

Peggy (Wolfe) Ferguson of Lisbon, Ohio passed away August 24, 2020. She attended Mount Union in the mid-1990s.

Eugene R. Harden of Concord, Ohio, father of **Eugene C. Harden '98**, passed away October 29, 2020.

James Kepley of Alliance, Ohio passed away August 2, 2020.

Brandyn Murtaugh of Uhrichsville, Ohio passed away October 10, 2020. He attended Mount Union in 2011.

Alice Neuman-Schaefer of Canfield, Ohio passed away October 4, 2020. She earned a teaching certificate at Mount Union in the 1960s.

John Pothorski of Wellington, Ohio passed away October 18, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

Nancy (Hartenstein) Raker of Marion, North Carolina passed away October 14, 2020. She attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

Eleanor (Lambert) Simpson of Renton, Washington passed away October 11, 2020. She attended Mount Union in the 1950s.

Sharon Smith, spouse of **Richard Smith '62**, passed away on February 7, 2017.

Tristan Taylor of New Carlisle, Ohio passed away August 27, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the mid 2010s.

Howard Thompson of North Canton, Ohio passed away August 19, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1940s when his service was interrupted by WWII.

Veronica (Reale) Wise of Ravenna, Ohio passed away August 27, 2020. She attended Mount Union in the late 1940s.

MOUNT  UNION

Women

Mount Union Women has been supporting the education of female students attending Mount Union for more than 87 years. Each year, Mount Union Women awards scholarships to outstanding students who are highly involved on campus and excelling in their academic studies. Funds for scholarships are raised through donations and a variety of fundraising activities.



Mount Union Women is a nonprofit organization led by a Board of Directors and a leadership team. Meetings are held a few times per year and social and fundraising activities occur throughout the year. Anyone interested in participating in activities or joining the leadership team can send a message to [mountunionwomen@gmail.com](mailto:mountunionwomen@gmail.com) or connect via the Mount Union Women Facebook page.

Donations to the scholarship fund are always welcome and can be made via the group's website: [mountunionwomen.org](http://mountunionwomen.org).



M Club is the varsity letter-winner's association at Mount Union. A student-athlete lettering in a varsity sport (men's or women's) at Mount Union is automatically a member of M Club upon graduation.

For those who qualify, we encourage you to get involved with M Club by attending meetings, athletic competitions, and events such as the Hall of Fame induction ceremony and social gatherings. Support can also include a monetary gift.

Please welcome (as of January 1) the following individuals as the new leadership team of M Club: Paul Cotton '83 as president, John "Buddy" Gasparik '85 as vice president, and Bob Atkinson '73 as secretary.



# YOUNG COUPLE ENVISIONS MOUNT UNION LEGACY

## *Changemakers.*

There is no better word to describe Dani Rizzo '10 and Adam Hoyt '10. Since their time at Mount Union and in both their personal and professional lives today, Dani and Adam are committed to giving back. It seems only natural that their passion for philanthropy has inspired their future legacy with a generous estate gift to support Mount Union students.

Their story began at Mount Union. Dani was a Preview guide when she met Adam during his freshman orientation. In addition to welcoming new students, Dani also was involved in cheerleading, WRMU, and Alpha Chi Omega. Adam played soccer, was a community educator in the residence halls, and was actively engaged in the sport business program.

Of all of their involvements, Dani described her most meaningful experience during college as serving at the Alliance Domestic Violence Shelter each year with her sorority sisters. "Being a changemaker, being a force for good, and making an impact on our community – these are things Adam and I both learned at Mount Union," she shared.

Adam and Dani moved to Washington, DC after graduating in 2010 and have made their home there. Adam was eager to launch his career in the sports industry and currently works for the Washington Nationals in ticket sales and service. After completing graduate school at American University, Dani fell in love with the non-profit sector and now runs the digital team for their local Humane Society. "We both have benefitted from the launching point that Mount Union provided for us," Adam explained, "and we're fortunate that we were able to land our dream jobs within our fields of study."

Giving back to Mount Union always has been part of the life Dani and Adam share together. They said, "Early on, much of



DANI RIZZO '10 AND  
ADAM HOYT '10

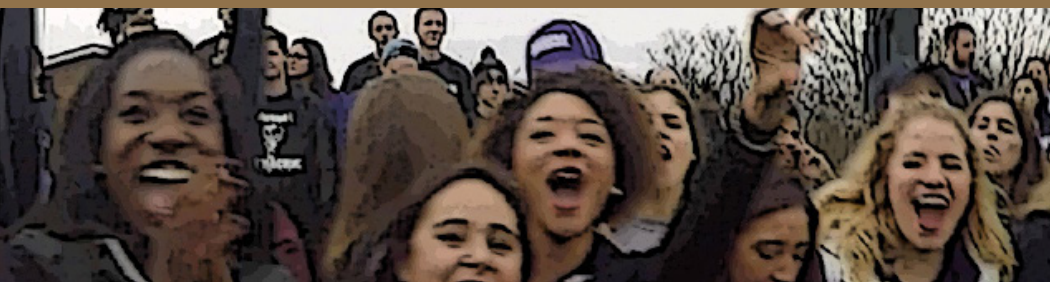
our giving was in the form of our time, as we were establishing ourselves and our careers." Over the years, Adam has remained actively involved with M Club, while Dani serves as coordinator for Mount Union's Washington, DC Regional Club.

But 2020 has been a year unlike any other, and in the midst of the chaos, they started to consider their plans for the future. "With all of the craziness around us, we wanted to make sure we had a plan and began to consider what we wanted our legacy to be." Although Adam and Dani have various philanthropic interests, Mount Union is their common thread. "Mount Union is to what we owe so much of our lives," Adam explained. "So giving financially is something we're both inspired to do – and to do more every year."

With this in mind, Dani and Adam decided to include Mount Union in their will. "We're most passionate about decreasing barriers to higher education, and closing the gaps in opportunity and inequality for diverse, underrepresented groups is important to us," they said. Their generous estate provision will fund the Adam M. Hoyt and Brooke Danielle Rizzo Endowed Scholarship and will contribute to the University's efforts toward inclusive excellence.

For Dani and Adam, Mount Union is where it all began – and now, full circle, their legacy will live on, impacting generations to come.

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](mailto:advancement@mountunion.edu).



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