

MOUNT UNION

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

SPRING/SUMMER
2022



INSPIRING
m i n d s

TRANSFORMING LIVES

\$50 MILLION GOAL
A C H I E V E D



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#BeExceptional

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BOTZMAN RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF MOUNT UNION

Dr. Tom Botzman announced his retirement from the presidency of the University of Mount Union effective June 30.

Botzman served as president of Mount Union since July of 2020, when he and his wife, Vanessa, returned to the Mount Union community they called home during his tenure as a faculty member and administrator from 1989 to 2004. During his initial tenure at Mount Union, Botzman served as a faculty member, directed international studies, and held the role of associate academic dean. He was a visiting professor and Fulbright Scholar at the University of the Americas in Mexico

City, Mexico, teaching there four times from 1992 to 1996. He also was named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow in 2002.

“I wish to thank the Board of Trustees, and the entire Mount Union community, for welcoming me back to the place where my academic career started,” said Botzman. “Mount Union has certainly grown in many ways since I originally joined the faculty in 1989. My total 17 years of service to Mount Union and our students will always be a cherished memory. May the future be equally as exciting and rewarding to our students and all associated with the University.”

TALKING POINTS



DR. ROBERT GERVASI NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT FOR 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Mount Union Board of Trustees has announced that Robert A. Gervasi, Ph.D. will serve as the interim president during the 2022-2023 Academic Year. He began this role on June 27.

Gervasi has extensive experience in all facets of running a university, having most recently spent four years as president of Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio, and the nine years prior at the helm of Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois.



At Ohio Dominican, Gervasi oversaw the college's 10-year reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and its first-ever public bond refinancing to help stabilize the school's finances. In addition, during his tenure, Ohio Dominican stabilized a declining enrollment and began a focus on building outside relationships with corporate and civic partners.

During his time at Quincy, the institution experienced growth and improvement in numerous areas, including enrollment and diversity. Quincy also expanded its academic profile and community outreach, strengthened fundraising, and enhanced campus life.

“We are pleased to have found an interim president who has both breadth and depth in terms of his understanding of the higher education environment,” said Matthew Darrah '84, chair of Mount Union's Board of Trustees. “Dr. Gervasi has a proven track record and has successfully navigated many of the challenges currently being experienced at our institution as well as other small, private Midwestern universities.”

“I am deeply honored to have been selected to lead the University of Mount Union during this important transition,” said Gervasi. “Mount Union has a storied history of excellence in academics, athletics, and community service. I look forward to working with faculty, staff, and students in advancing the University's mission to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.”

NEW PATHWAYS, PARTNERSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Mount Union and Cleveland State University (CSU) have announced an articulation agreement that will qualify Mount Union engineering and physics graduates for direct admission into one of seven master's degree programs at CSU.

Additionally, Mount Union and Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) are pleased to announce a partnership to provide a seven-year (3+4) Bachelor of Science to Doctor of Pharmacy degree pathway. Interested students will complete three years at Mount Union, and during what would normally be their fourth year of study, they matriculate to NEOMED's College of Pharmacy.

Mount Union also announced that current and future undergraduate students of the University will be eligible for early assurance into its Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (PA) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (PT) degree programs beginning fall 2022. The PA and PT programs will offer early assurance of up to 10 seats and eight seats, respectively, to enrolled undergraduates at Mount Union during their time of application.

BLACK '98 NAMED CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

Mount Union has named Mark Black '98 as the institution's first full-time chief diversity officer and senior Title IX administrator.



Black comes to the University from Akron Public Schools, where he served as executive director of secondary schools.

As chief diversity officer and senior Title IX administrator, Black will work closely with the President's Council and other senior leaders to catalyze institutional change, particularly among students, faculty, and staff, to ensure that the University is creating inclusion and belonging for every member of the campus community.

"I feel intense pleasure with this new opportunity as chief diversity officer and senior Title IX administrator at the University of Mount Union," Black said. "I feel as if I have come full circle back to Mount, my alma mater, and Alliance, my hometown."



176TH COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATED

Mount Union celebrated its graduates with separate graduate and undergraduate ceremonies on May 14. More than 400 total graduates were recognized with thousands in attendance to support them.

Commencement Weekend also featured the annual Baccalaureate service, the Graduate Send-Off event, and the Commencement Luncheon.

See the entire gallery of Commencement Weekend photos on Facebook at facebook.com/UniversityofMountUnion/photos





BRAZILE, NAVARRO BRING INSIGHT AND HUMOR TO 2022 SCHOOLER LECTURE

Mount Union welcomed hundreds to campus to hear re-nowned political strategists Donna Brazile and Ana Navarro discuss the topic, “A Woman’s Right to Vote.” The event was moderated by Dr. Jamie Capuzza, professor of communication, and provided opportunity for students to ask questions both before the lecture, and following the moderated discussion.

“I enjoy hearing [Ana’s] point of view because every now and then, you learn something. I want to learn. I want to listen. I want to grow. If more Americans don’t, we’re going to lose our democracy.”

- Donna Brazile

DR. NIKI JOHNSON NAMED GREAT TEACHER, DIAZ-PALMA ’22 IS 2022 OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Dr. Niki Johnson, professor of philosophy and religious studies, was named Mount Union’s Great Teacher for 2022.



A member of the Mount Union faculty since 2007, Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and political science from Westminster College, a Master of Arts degree in applied theology from Wheeling Jesuit University, and a Doctor of Theology degree in practical theology from the Boston University School of Theology.

Outside of the classroom, Johnson has authored two books, co-chaired the University’s Anti-Racism Task Force, and was the recipient of the 2020 Faculty Award for Distinguished Scholarship, the 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, and the 2021 DISC Innovator of Diversity Award.

A student nominator said, “I believe her to be a great teacher at this university because she teaches us to move our world closer to peace by being champions of justice, truth, and mercy within whatever careers we choose.”

The Great Teacher Award, initiated in 1962, is sponsored by the Alumni Association and recognizes excellence in teaching.

Santino Diaz-Palma ’22, a biochemistry and Spanish double major of Youngstown, Ohio, was named Mount Union’s 2022 Outstanding Senior.



Diaz-Palma is a member of Alpha Mu Gamma Honorary (president), the American Chemical Society; Association of International Students; Gender Equity Matters; HOLA (treasurer), Phi Kappa Tau (community service chair), Pre-Health Profession Club, Pre-Medical Students Club; Pride, Student Senate, and the esports program.

He has served as a Green Raider, Preview and Orientation guide, resident assistant and assistant resident manager; in addition to being a member of the University Conduct Board. He also participated in study abroad (spring 2019, Universidad Andres Bello in Santiago, Chile); the Wilderness Trip, and the Social Responsibility Trip.

Other nominees included Aleya Mims ’22, a biology major of Struthers, Ohio; and Jack Patton ’22, a finance and risk management and insurance double major of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

PREPARING THE FUTURE

Amid Mount Union's 175th Anniversary celebration, the University's "Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives" campaign concluded in December 2021 with an incredible \$50.2 million raised, surpassing the \$50 million goal.

The Inspiring Minds campaign began in 2016 with a focus on opportunity, innovation, and excellence to strengthen every dimension of the Mount Union experience for deserving students. Throughout the last five years, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends came together to support current and future students. The generosity of the Mount Union community has created scholarships crucial to the recruitment and retention of outstanding students, strengthened academic programs, and enhanced facilities across campus.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

\$18.8 MILLION RAISED

Scholarship support has been the top priority from day one of the Inspiring Minds campaign. Ensuring that hardworking families and students continue to have access to a Mount Union education is essential to fulfilling the University's mission to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.

The cost of a college education and increasing student debt both pose significant obstacles for students seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees. As a response, nearly \$19 million was raised in direct support of student scholarships. While many donors added to already-established scholarships, the campaign saw 81 brand new scholarships created for a total of \$8 million. The combination of endowed and current scholarships helps students focus more on their studies and less on their financial need so they can make it across the graduation stage.

Scholarships at Mount Union cover a wide array of individuals and interests, with having some more general criteria and others identifying students studying a specific area (or hailing from a specific high school like the Alma Mater scholarship initiative). The principal of an endowed scholarship fund is kept intact with only the annual earnings used to fund current scholarship needs. Therefore, endowed scholarships provide funding to our students in perpetuity. In contrast, current scholarships are received and returned to aid students in the current academic year.

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

\$50.2 MILLION

(\$32.1M CASH, \$18.1M DEFERRED)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

**\$50
MILLION**

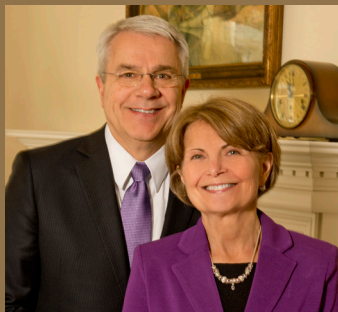
GOAL

CAMPAIGN CABINET

CAMPAIGN CHAIRS



Richard '72 and Cheryl (Brown '72) Drake



Richard and Sandra '81 Giese

HONORARY CHAIRS



Harold Kolenbrander



The late Jack and Madge Peters



Violet (Bica '44) Ross

CABINET

Roger Clay '61
James Costanzo '84
Matthew Darrah '84
Dorothy Davis '62
John Flynn '71
Suzan Goris
Allen Green '77
Michael Jarrett '87
Daniel Keller '72
Laura Keller
Stephen Kramer
Gerard Mastroianni
Michael Muffet '67
Gretchen Schuler '96
David Wolpert '69
Debby (Betz '73)
Wolpert



"The generosity of alumni and friends always has been, and will continue to be, a driving force behind Mount Union's commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience."

-Greg King '89

Vice President of University Advancement

The Dr. Dick Merriman and Dr. Margot Kelman President's Rescue Fund and the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund have helped a wide array of students through hardships during the past six years and will continue to make an impact for generations of future students and their families.

PRESIDENT'S RESCUE FUND



"My dad sustained an injury that forced him to stop working. The President's Rescue Fund has allowed me to continue my schooling without worry of our financial situation."

Emily Shar '24

Music and Public Relations Major

135

STUDENTS ASSISTED

\$397,753
RAISED

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND



"When the pandemic hit, both of my parents became unemployed for three consecutive months.

Thankfully, I learned about the Student Emergency Fund created by The Mount Union Fund. Thank you [to our donors] – from the bottom of my heart – for giving me the opportunity to attend Mount Union."

Isabella Sherban '22

Communication Studies Major

175

STUDENTS ASSISTED

\$335,170
RAISED

At the end of the 2021 fiscal year, more than 450 endowed funds have been created to support scholarships, awards, professorships, lectures, and other areas on campus, and more than \$20.5 million was raised for the endowment during the campaign.

The Dr. Dick Merriman and Dr. Margot Kelman President's Rescue Fund, named for the 12th president of Mount Union and his wife, was launched in 2016 and is designed for juniors and seniors who find themselves in dire financial need and have explored all other financial aid and loan options to continue their education. Financial assistance provided by this fund is given to students who are in good academic and social standing and desire to complete their academic career at Mount Union.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS/
FACILITY, CLASSROOM, AND LAB ENHANCEMENTS

\$8 MILLION RAISED AND \$16 MILLION RAISED RESPECTIVELY

For the past 175 years, Mount Union has taken great pride in its beautiful campus and exceptional facilities. While Chapman Hall and the Campus Lakes make for picture-perfect Instagram backgrounds, they also welcome prospective students and their families

TIMELINE

HISTORY OF THE INSPIRING MINDS CAMPAIGN



DECEMBER 2016

President's Rescue Fund established



JULY 2016

Campaign planning phase began



MAY 2017

Campaign authorized by Board of Trustees



as hallmarks of an inviting atmosphere where they can spend four transformative years. These historic landmarks offer immediate nostalgia for tens of thousands of alumni, but they would not be as inviting without upkeep and enhancements.

As the landscape of student recruitment becomes increasingly competitive, Mount Union has been nimble in providing students with modern facilities that resemble, or are identical

to, the software and equipment they will utilize every day in their respective fields. Smaller updates happen every year, but major projects like the renovation and expansion of Oak Hall are funded through comprehensive campaigns like Inspiring Minds. As Mount Union's engineering programs have grown since their inception in 2010, they have outgrown their space.

The expansion to Oak Hall, opened in January 2022, provides a dramatic

81
NEW
SCHOLARSHIPS
CREATED

\$8,000,000
IN TOTAL RAISED TO SUPPORT
NEW SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS
FOR STUDENTS



JUNE 2017

Ten estate commitments totaling nearly \$3 million secured



MAY 2018

First phase of the Kolenbrander-Harter Information Center renovations began



APRIL 2018

Inaugural "Raiders Give" Annual Day of Giving is launched; \$200K+ raised

CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS

7,000-square-foot addition including a business classroom suite, an innovation classroom, and an active design lab.

While academics are the foundation of a Mount Union education, students' experiences outside of the classroom connect many to their affinity with the institution for a lifetime. With 850 student-athletes on campus, part of that experience for many is athletics. Football's historic success has led many former gridiron greats to support updates to existing and new facilities, including Wable Park, the Sean M. Moore '97 Field, Wable-Harter Football Locker Room, and the Dom and Karen Capers Football Coaching Center. All these enhancements offer more space for teams to practice, train, and engage academically to ensure their success off the field.

The baseball team has benefited from some much-needed upgrades to the former 23rd Street Complex. Renovations to the facility, which was renamed Rafeld-Rogers Field after 30-year coach Jack 'Skip' Rafeld and former player and Alliance native Mike Rogers, elevated the quality of the baseball field to match the excellence of facilities across campus. This included new artificial turf from AstroTurf with plans to construct a new home dugout, press box, seating, and a new entrance to the field.

Finally, the Melvin J. Snode Golf Facility, completed in February 2022, offers an incredible recruitment tool for prospective golf student-athletes as well as a state-of-the-art practice facility for current Purple Raider golfers.



Wable Park and Sean M. Moore Field



Kolenbrander-Harter Information Center Third Floor



Dom and Karen Capers Football Coaching Center



DECEMBER 2018

\$2 million received from Dom and Karen Capers for the Capers Football Coaching Center



MAY 2019

Wable Park dedicated



APRIL 2019

\$2 million received from Stark County foundations for engineering and business addition

THE MOUNT UNION FUND

ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR IMMEDIATE NEED

\$7.4 MILLION RAISED

The Mount Union Fund (MUF) has been a bedrock of campus for decades. Gifts provided to the MUF are crucial for the support of students and the day-to-day operations of campus. The areas in which donors can direct their dollars within their annual gifts are a microcosm of the campaign itself: university priorities, student scholarships, the Student Emergency Fund, the College Excellence Funds, and M Club.

Every gift, no matter the size or allocation, makes an impact on current Mount Union students. Getting involved makes a difference, and the Purple Raider community has answered the call to support students with more than 3,900 donors participating during the 2020-2021 fiscal year – the largest number in nearly a decade.

Unique programming developed by the MUF team during the campaign, like Raiders Give and the Virtual Stadium Sellout (VSSO), has attracted new donors and garnered excitement across campus for philanthropy. Calling Raiders Give a success since its inception would be an understatement. The annual day of giving has raised more than \$1.67 million to support the University in just five 24-hour windows (read more on the 2022 event on page 21). That breaks down to roughly \$232 per minute.



Oak Hall



Rafeld-Rogers Field



Melvin J. Snode Golf Facility



SEPTEMBER 2019

Ground broken for Dom and Karen Capers Football Coaching Center



MAY 2019

\$2.5M received from James and Vanita Oelschlager for scholarship endowment



OCTOBER 2019

Oak Hall dedicated; public phase of the campaign launched

The VSSO was born during the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic in fall of 2020. In lieu of supporting Purple Raider athletes in-person while games could not be played, alumni and friends had the chance to give back to their favorite athletic programs. The success of the first year has since made this event a staple of University fundraising, garnering nearly \$125,000 for athletic programs in 2020 and 2021.

Another area of impact within the Mount Union Fund that gained support in recent years was the Student Emergency Fund. Initially launched less than a month after Ohio's first positive case of coronavirus, the Student Emergency Fund was established to help the most vulnerable students with unexpected and urgent expenses related to COVID-19. Today, the fund serves as a resource for all students in dire need of support.



Avery Wengerter '24
Louisville, Ohio
Criminal Justice and Psychology
Double Major

Avery Wengerter '24 can be found almost everywhere on campus. In the Giese Center, she performs as a member of the marching and concert bands. She walks the campus as a student ambassador giving tours to prospective students and parents. She also serves as an Honors Program mentor and digital, written, and oral communication consultant. Yet, this Presidential Scholarship recipient might not have been able to achieve her success in and out of the classroom without the necessary support.

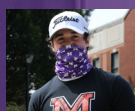
"It amazes me to know that 98% of students on campus – including myself – receive some sort of financial aid. I am so grateful for donor support in my education because without that support, Mount Union would not be the valuable place it is today."



OCTOBER 2019
Public phase of the *Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives* campaign launched



JUNE 2020
President's Rescue Fund Named for Merriman and Kelman



APRIL 2020
COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund announced



THANK YOU

Ultimately, the “Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives” campaign was made possible thanks to the support of Mount Union’s alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends. For your attending of virtual events during trying times of connectivity, celebration back on campus with friends for Alumni Weekend, and support of current and future students through the Mount Union Fund or an endowed scholarship, we want to thank you.

Your commitment to generations of Purple Raiders has transformed campus while making students feel welcome and supported. Thanks to the generosity and spirit of the Mount Union community, the University will continue to inspire minds and transform lives for another 175 years and beyond.



NOVEMBER 2020

Inaugural Virtual Stadium Sellout raises more than \$60K during the pandemic



NOVEMBER 2021

Initial Alma Mater Scholarship – Darrah Family Scholarship – announced



MAY 2021

Oak Hall expansion breaks ground



DECEMBER 2021

Campaign completed, raising \$50.2 million total

in
the

SPOTLIGHT

Behind-the-scenes of the first student-written and directed musical to take the Mount Union stage

BY: PEYTON ZAMARELLI '22



Siv Street '22 (left) and Abigail Collinworth '22 are the writer-director tandem behind "Beau: The Musical"

“No one needs to be fixed, they just need to be accepted,” shared Siv Street ’22 (they/them). Street, along with co-writer D. Nite, serves as official writer and musical director of “Beau: The Musical,” the first student-written show to ever be performed at Mount Union.

“Beau,” which debuted to four sold-out performances in April, shares the story of a nonspeaking 17-year-old teen who is raised in a group home. While the titular character struggles with his reality that granted him natural struggles, he finds himself on a journey over summer vacation, meeting individuals who inhabit differing traits than his own. Through his own trials and tribulations, along with other characters with whom Beau interacts, he realizes the importance of radical acceptance for others.

“As an adolescent, I dealt with several mental health issues. I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, and depression at age 14,” shared Street. “I had been going to therapy for years, but when I was 16, I was told taking medication would be the next option to try because ‘therapy had done all it could for me at this point.’ Finding mental health help for youth is difficult, and I wanted to share the reality of that through this story.”

The ideas behind “Beau” have been in the making since Street’s junior year when they began creating this compelling story. Street is excited to combine their passion for writing and the art of theatre to share this staged production as their senior culminating experience (SCE). Not only is this production completely new and has never been performed anywhere, but writing, directing, and performing the musical from scratch is an innovation on the Mount Union campus actualized by Street and directing partner Abigail Collinsworth ’22 (she/her).

“While an SCE may contain some self-written material, Beau is unique in that it is a complete script, that the department feels has potential for subsequent professional productions,” said Kevin Kern, associate professor of theatre.

“I am truly ecstatic that I get to dive into my passions and know that I have the ability to do something no one has done before,” Street stated. “Hopefully, it will encourage other students in the program to expand their horizons and think about the endless opportunities the University has to offer.”

Street, of Streetsboro, Ohio is a senior with majors in writing and theatre performance. On campus, Street is heavily involved as an active member of the Mount Union Players and president of Gender Equity Matters (GEM).

“I am truly ecstatic that I get to dive into my passions and know that I have the ability to do something no one has done before.”

-Siv Street ’22



As an active playwright and thespian, Street believes this is the perfect SCE to allow them to reach their career goals after graduation.

“Writing plays and musicals is something I want to do professionally once I leave my collegiate career,” said Street. “While writing has always been a grand love affair for me and storytelling is in my blood, theatre is such an intense medium because it brings the creative ideas of so many people together to create something truly unique.”

Street believes that they could not actualize this story without the creative partnership with Collinsworth, a senior theatre performance major with a focus in musical theatre of Westerville, Ohio. On campus, Collinsworth, who is also a member of the Mount Union

Players, serving as treasurer, was thrilled to take part in leading this first-ever production.

“I knew I wanted something along the directorial line,” Collinsworth stated. “When Siv presented ‘Beau’ to me, I simply couldn’t resist.”

Collinsworth believes that Mount Union offered multiple windows of opportunity for her to thrive in her degree program. Specifically, she believes she earned a solid education in gaining the skills to practice several different theatrical skills such as singing, dancing, technical work, acting, and directing.

“The directing class Mount offers was certainly one that helped prepare me for this project,” shared Collinsworth. “The acting classes were also really beneficial because it helped me think about the characters motivations, goals, and intentions. It is my hope that by working on this show and expanding my directing abilities it will open the door for me to be able to continue directing shows in the future.”



Leaders of Meaningful Work

Non-profit work can sometimes be grueling, thankless, and daunting in scale, regardless of the size of the population affected. Despite that demand, these three Purple Raiders are just a sample of the alumni who have devoted their careers to making a difference in their communities.



Brandon R. Scarborough '02 | Founder, Executive Director, Dreams Academy

The phrase “like father, like son” is not something that **Brandon R. Scarborough '02**, founder and executive director of Dreams Academy, initially thought represented him until very recently. His father, a pastor at the New Zion Baptist Church in Alliance, often brought Scarborough to the Carnation City as a child, and the Akron native became ingratiated with the community and Mount Union.

After Scarborough graduated from Mount Union, the self-proclaimed “mama’s boy” admitted to being more like his father than he ever imagined in running Dreams Academy, an Akron-based organization described as, “an excellence incubator for young African-American men ages 10 to 15 that offers programming in career guidance, financial literacy, problem solving, and soft skills.” Dreams Academy is in its sixth year, with Scarborough creating Queens Academy, an extension program for young women of the same age group, in 2021.

“Dreams Academy is my life assignment,” Scarborough said. “What it means to me is providing a glimmer of hope to young men and women and helping them find their own purpose – that is what wakes me up in the morning.”

Building on the foundation of success with these programs, Scarborough is working with Ron Holden, assistant dean and director of diversity and inclusion at Mount Union, to bring a summer program to campus for middle school students to continue to build relationships between campus and community.



Alex Koehler '10 Regional Volunteer Services Officer - Central and Southern Ohio Region, American Red Cross



Alex Koehler '10 wears several different hats for the American Red Cross. So, when his five-year-old nephew asked what he did for a living, he summed it up simply as, "We help people help people." That description is just a microcosm of Koehler's journey to now organize thousands of volunteers for the Red Cross every year.

Koehler, a significant presence in any room – Zoom rooms included – came to Mount Union as a football player with dreams of one day coaching the sport. An injury early in his college tenure put his football career in jeopardy, but Koehler was already thinking about ways he could make a bigger impact than on the sidelines.

"Before coming to Mount Union, my grandfather passed away, and there was a line of people out the door to pay their respects, mostly as a result of how much he gave back to his community," Koehler said. "I knew then that I wanted to lead a life as impactful as my grandfather, which was a life of service."

Graduating with a degree in physical education, Koehler still uses the principles of leadership he learned both in the classroom and in being president of Mount Union's chapter of Phi Kappa Tau. In mobilizing volunteers for home emergencies and natural disasters across 47 different counties, especially as hurricane and wildfire seasons approach, he often thinks about the personal ways in which the Red Cross has helped him and his family, making it easier to garner support for the organization's efforts.

"My family has benefited directly from the Red Cross' Hero Care Network, and it just makes me believe in what I do even more," Koehler said. "I love that you can go anywhere in the world and see that red cross icon and know it is a symbol of hope and refuge."



Joy (Kunkel '84) Banish Executive Director, Greater Cleveland Volunteers



For nearly three decades, Joy (Kunkel '84) Banish has strived to make the Cleveland area better through her work as executive director of Greater Cleveland Volunteers (GCV), an organization she describes as, "connecting people who want to help with community needs."

Though she stumbled into non-profit work after a few years of post-grad retail management, the communications graduate credits Mount Union for preparing her for a long and successful career.

"I really enjoy writing and it's a big part of my job in communicating to the public or grants to secure funding," Banish said. "Whether it was a journalism class, working at WRMU, or writing for The Dynamo, I feel like everything I learned has been relevant for everything I do now."

While Banish has been involved in countless efforts over the past 29 years, she takes great pride in her involvement in securing funding and helping facilitate the American Association for Retired Persons Foundation's Experience Corps Program. The program, which began in 1997, connects seniors ages 50 and older with students in Cleveland and Euclid schools to help bolster their literacy and even adapted virtually throughout the pandemic.

Banish has also been an integral member of Mount Union Women ever since she received her degree. Serving as president multiple times, she is a staunch advocate for the organization and the opportunities it provides, illustrating her steadfast commitment to both non-profit work and Mount Union.



CEMENTING A LEGACY



Mount Union is recognizing the career of former football player, alumnus, assistant coach, professor, head coach, and athletic director **Larry Kehres '71** by creating an endowment, building a plaza, and renaming the stadium in his honor. This achievement was marked with the dedication of Kehres Stadium and the unveiling of and the plans for the Larry and Linda Kehres Plaza on June 11.

The Larry T. Kehres Coaching Endowment for Football

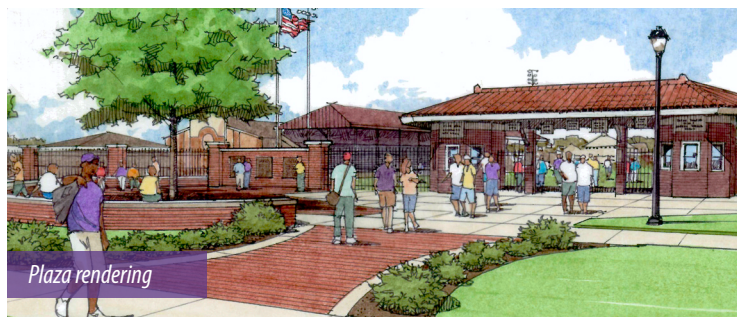
Established in 2022, this endowment was created by football players, coaches, and friends with the purpose to support the Mount Union football program by endowing coaching positions and complementary program needs, such as training or equipment expenses. The funds will be used at the discretion of the head coach in a manner consistent with the University's practices and policies. Donations to this fund are being accepted right now at giving.mountunion.edu/kehres.

Larry and Linda Kehres Plaza

Just to the west of the main entrance on the south end of the stadium will sit a plaza honoring Kehres and his wife, Linda, and the importance of family both in their lives and the life of the Mount Union football program. A listing of former assistant coaches will be in the plaza as well.

Kehres Stadium

Ohio's oldest college football stadium has also been renamed Kehres Stadium. Inside the stadium, he played quarterback,



worked both as an assistant coach and head coach, becoming college football's winningest coach. He also oversaw significant facility upgrades in the stadium over the years that have benefited men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, and men's and women's track and field in addition to football.

Coaching Career

His teams have won 23 Ohio Athletic Conference Championships (1986, 1990, 1992-2012) while posting 21 undefeated regular seasons (1986, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995-2004, 2006-2012) and claiming 11 NCAA Division III National Championships (1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012). From 2000-2013, Kehres compiled a record of 182-7 with seven national championships.

In total, Kehres' career coaching record of 332-24-3 (.929) makes him one of only 10 coaches in the history of college football to win at least 300 games. In 2017, he was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.



Photos from the dedications of the Dom and Karen Capers Football Coaching Center and Kehres Stadium on June 11. (Photos courtesy | Canton Repository, Ed Hall Jr.)

Alumni Gatherings



TopGolf Cleveland



Denver



Florida



1996, 1997, 1998 National Championship Football Reunion

CLASS NOTES

Class Notes to be included in the Fall/Winter 2022 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before October 31, 2022.

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

1970s

Jeannie (Fizet '73) Dieffenbaugher retired on December 31, 2021 as director of volunteer operations for the PGA of America based in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Carol (Hrvatin '78) Hampu was elected in November to her second term to the Salem City School Board in Salem, Ohio. She served as board president in 2020 and taught in Salem City Schools for 19 years, retiring in 2016.

Diane (Hellock '76) Kuntzman retired after 43 years of teaching kindergarten with Marlington Local Schools. She and husband **David '74** look forward to spending time with their family and grandsons.

1980s

Anita (Mendat '87) Cabacar recently retired after 31 years of service with the federal government after first being stationed in Washington, DC and then Baltimore, Maryland. She also celebrated 30 years of marriage with husband Ray. The happily retired couple now reside in Durham, North Carolina. Alpha Chi Omega sorority sister **Gayle (Sticha '86) Tsipis** lives three doors away.

1990s

Hillarie (Stevens '99) O'Toole began her new role as director of operations for community engagement and career services at The Juilliard School in January 2022. She will be part of a team responsible for connecting students and alumni to professional opportunities through fellowship programs, grant programs, the Hire Juilliard Performers program, and curricular and co-curricular offerings.

Mary Lou (Horwood '98) Thewes has joined the HW&Co., a regional CPA firm, as the director of human resources.



2000s

Lisa (Bryan '07) and Eric Frazee announce the birth of a son, Evan Vincent, on April 14, 2021.

2010s

Brandon Alexander '10 has been admitted into the M.S./Ph.D. program for cybersecurity and strategic intelligence in the Center for Cyberdefense/Cybersecurity at APUS, West Virginia. The program is designated by The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE).



Chris Cugini '13 and wife Abigail announce the birth of a son, Matteo Joseph. Chris was also named one of the



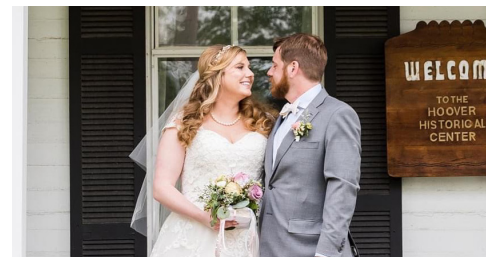
inaugural 40 Under 40 in Public Health Catalyst Award winners from the Boston Congress of Public Health.

Natalie (Groff '18) and Tyler '17 Flynn were married on October 9, 2021, in Macedonia, Ohio. The wedding party included fellow alumni **Dana Jackson '16, Devon Doran '17, and Anthony Sebok '17.**



Ida Gorman '13 graduated with a Master of Science degree in educational leadership from Western Governors University, including a principal's license.

Kaley (Smitley '10) and Jonathan Harris were married on May 15, 2021. Members of the wedding party included **Caitlin Krentz '09, Metta (Warholyk '10) Matthews, Sarah Kufta '11, and Juliann (Trevorrow '12) Doerschuk.** The couple resides in Medina, Ohio.



Michelle (Bryan '12) and Josh Kosko announce the birth of a son, Simon Joshua, on March 7, 2022.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE



The warmer days of spring bring nicer weather, family outings, sporting events, vacations, plus many other things we celebrate, but for the Mount Union community, it means the closing of another academic year and the celebration of Commencement.

In May, we held this year's graduate and undergraduate Commencement ceremonies and welcomed into our alumni ranks the members of the Class of 2022. On behalf of all alumni, I want to extend our congratulations

to these graduates and their families as we collectively celebrate all their accomplishments! While our time as students at Mount Union is limited, our ties to the institution are never ending, and I encourage all the recent (and former) graduates to stay connected to Mount.

The writing of this message represents an upcoming change for me, as this will be the last message I write

to all of you as Alumni Association president. Alumni Association officers serve limited terms, two years as vice president and two years as president, and so, my term is coming to an end this fall. I'm very fortunate to be able to hand over the baton to Jen (Thurin '03) Slack, the current Alumni Association vice president. I know she will do great things and I wish her well in her role at president. I know all alumni will provide her with as much support as was provided to me! I'd be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to extend my thanks to so many of you for all your guidance, counsel, and support throughout my term as president.

I look forward to seeing you all this fall for Alumni Weekend and Homecoming in October, where we once again will have the opportunity to come together as a Mount Union family and celebrate everything that is Mount Union!

As always, on behalf of the Alumni Association and Mount Union, I thank you for your continued commitment, loyalty, and support!

With Purple Raider Pride,

-Chad Johnson '07
Alumni Association President

Alexandra (Scali '17) Krakowiak announces the birth of a daughter, Kenadie Nicole on November 11, 2021.



Brenna (Brown '17) and Nicolas

Langowski '15 were married on October 26, 2019. The Langowski family also announces the birth of a son, Patrick Daniel, on August 27, 2021.

Christine (McCauley '10) and Ian McLallen announce the birth of a son, Nolan, on July 2, 2021.



Kalyn (Budner '16) and Trevor '16 Wilson '16 announce the birth of a son, Cole Angelo, on February 1, 2022.



Submit your class notes at
[mountunion.edu/alumni!](https://mountunion.edu/alumni)

SAVE THE DATE! Alumni Weekend and Homecoming OCTOBER 7-9, 2022



39th Annual Run-A-MUC 5K



Academic, athletic, and class year reunions



MUcaw FunZone



Multicultural Tent and Tailgate

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus! More details and registration will be available soon at mountunion.edu/homecoming.

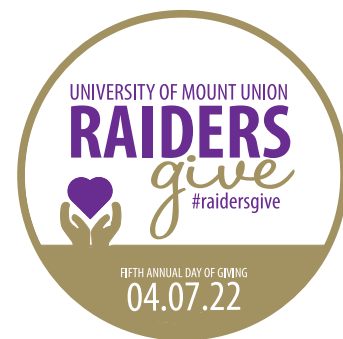
Class of 1972 50th Reunion



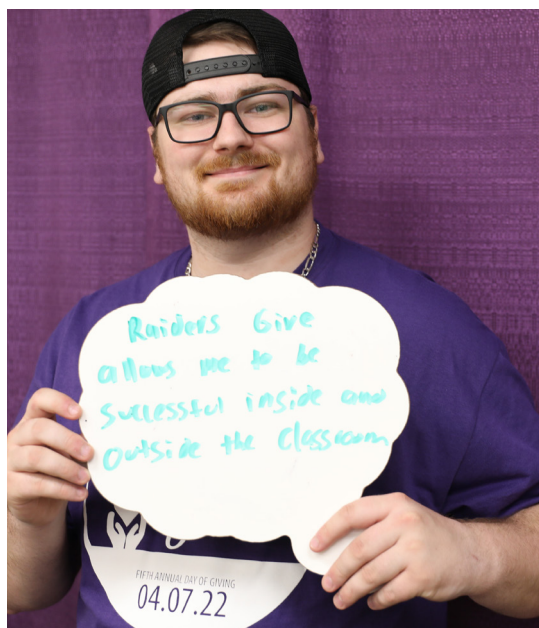
Members of the Class of 1972 gathered in May to celebrate their 50th Class Reunion and break ground on the new amphitheatre that was generously supported through their gifts.



THANK you!



On April 7, 2022, the Mount Union community came together to collectively raise **\$333,596** in Mount Union Fund support to make a BIG impact on the lives of all current and future Purple Raiders in just 24 hours. On behalf of the entire Mount Union community, thank you to everyone who made this impactful day possible. We are one Mount Union, and together, we are stronger!



MISSED #RAIDERSGIVE?

You can still invest in the lives and educational experiences of our students with a special gift to The Mount Union Fund today at giving.mountunion.edu.



Deaths

1940s

Marian (Wilson '48) Beck of Salem, Ohio passed away on February 27, 2022.

1950s

Clifford Anderson Jr. '57 of Mount Vernon, Ohio passed away on November 20, 2021.

Vera (Olson '50) Bannasch of Sarasota, Florida passed away on February 24, 2022.

Sheila (Miles '59) Dimit of Bristol, Virginia passed away on December 30, 2021.

Jack Durham '53 of Granville, Ohio passed away on December 22, 2021.

Joseph Ehret '56 of Massillon, Ohio passed away on March 1, 2022.

Nellie (Leitch '55) Eshler of Briny Breezes, Florida passed away on March 6, 2022.

Bruce Feicht '59 of Columbiana, Ohio passed away on January 30, 2022.

Howard Friend '50 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on December 31, 2021.

John Groat '59 of Marysville, Ohio passed away on January 22, 2022.

Barbara (Cope '50) Kelly of Orange, Texas passed away on January 11, 2022.

Mariann (Cox '57) Landa of Milwaukee, Wisconsin passed away on November 2, 2021.

James Laughlin '55 of Salem, Ohio passed away on February 24, 2022.

Carol (Parker '54) Mattison of Erie, Pennsylvania passed away on August 17, 2021. She was married to **James Spenseller '55** until he passed in 1961. Carol was the mother of **Kristy (Seelinger '87) Kuches**.

James Nace '56 of Girard, Ohio passed away on March 6, 2022.

Albert Prazniak '50 of Massillon, Ohio passed away on November 23, 2021.

Marilyn (Boyer '55) Seibert of Oakmont, Pennsylvania passed away on December 9, 2021.

Lora Shank '59 of Apache Junction, Arizona passed away on February 14, 2022.

Dorothy (Garlock '52) Shively of Westminster, Colorado passed away on March 3, 2022.

Martha (Frary '52) Svoboda of Wayne, Nebraska passed away on December 25, 2021.

Raymond Russell '51 of Plain City, Ohio passed away on December 30, 2021.

Richard Taaffe '57 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on February 20, 2022.

Donna (Donaldson '52) Taylor of La Marque, Texas passed away on January 31, 2022.

William "Bill" Trask '53 of Lemon Grove, California passed away on November 2, 2021.

Norman Wagy '52 of Homosassa, Florida passed away on February 23, 2022.

Robert Weals '55 of Columbus, Ohio passed away on January 24, 2022.

James Wise '57 of Ashland, Ohio passed away on November 3, 2021.

Donna (Neel '52) Zelmer of Canton, Ohio passed away on December 17, 2021.

1960s

Leah Agnoni '64 of Alliance, Ohio passed away on November 30, 2021.

James Anthony '62 of Kent, Ohio passed away on December 7, 2021.

Marilyn Axtmann '66 of Fishers, Indiana passed away on January 24, 2022.

Charles "Chuck" Bieri '63 of New Brighton, Pennsylvania passed away on January 19, 2022.

Lynne (Eikenbary '60) Bracy of Miamisburg, Ohio passed away on January 30, 2022.

Carol (Meeks '61) Brown of Bradenton, Florida passed away on January 24, 2022.

Sally (Shears '65) Collins of Sebring, Ohio passed away on April 17, 2022.

Jerry Davis '69 of Homeworth, Ohio passed away on April 24, 2022.

Mary (Piatt '66) Frischkorn of Wellsville, Ohio passed away on December 16, 2021.

Valre (Belden '66) Fuller of Virginia Beach, Virginia passed away on March 8, 2022.

Thomas George '62 of Medina, Ohio passed away on March 5, 2022.

Eugene Haynam '61 of Westfield Center, Ohio passed away on January 14, 2022.

Cathie (Franks '69) Johnson of Fitchburg, Wisconsin passed away on February 9, 2022.

Charles "Bud" McCall '69 of Canton, Ohio passed away on March 1, 2022.

David Miller '63 of Canton, Ohio passed away on March 25, 2022.

Ann Palmer '67 of New Kensington, Pennsylvania passed away on March 16, 2022.

Dr. Carol (Shaffer '60) Pierce of Lockport, New York passed away on November 1, 2021.

Rev. Sandra (Waddell '66) Payette of Bellville, Ohio passed away on October 30, 2021.

John Rochus III '68 of Canton, Ohio passed away on March 31, 2022.

Ralph Schwartz '66 of Lisbon, Ohio passed away on November 29, 2021.

Roger Troike '63 of Sandusky, Ohio passed away on December 24, 2021.

1970s

Carol (Vanek '74) Barry of Marietta, Georgia passed away on September 30, 2021.

Nicholas Bollas '78 of Canton, Ohio passed away on December 27, 2021.

Deborah (Atkins '77) Damon of Alliance, Ohio passed away on January 28, 2022.

Kenneth Damon '79 of Miamisburg, Ohio passed away on April 15, 2022.

Theresa (Bayer '79) Johnson of Concord, Ohio passed away on November 12, 2021.

Kenneth Patrick Jr. '71 of Baldwinsville, New York passed away on December 19, 2021.

Thomas Russ '78 of Canton, Ohio passed away on November 29, 2021.

Roxanne (Beery '77) Teague of Wooster, Ohio passed away on February 20, 2022.

1980s

Jonathan Freitag '82 of Fairlawn, Ohio passed away on March 21, 2022.

Tommy Williams '86 of Bedford Heights, Ohio passed away on February 16, 2022.

David "Opey" Thomas '80 of Meadville, Pennsylvania passed away on March 26, 2022.

1990s

Deborah Raesler '96 of Amherst, Ohio passed away on December 21, 2021.

2000s

Todd Michaels '00 of East Canton, Ohio passed away on January 14, 2022.

2010s

Lane Clark '18 of Nashville, Tennessee passed away on February 13, 2022.

Friends

Betty (Keller) Coleman of Alliance, Ohio passed away on December 5, 2021. She attended in the mid-1940s.

Gretchen (Schweikart) Cox of Alliance, Ohio passed away on March 26, 2022. She attended in mid-1950s.

Richard Davison of Steubenville, Ohio passed away on November 19, 2021. He attended in the early 1950s.

Randy Engle of Salem, Ohio passed away on January 9, 2021. He was the spouse of **Melissa (Meissner '69) Engle**.

Beverly (Cooke) Haymaker of Stony Point, North Carolina passed away on January 28, 2022. She attended in the early 1960s.

Lyn Hemminger of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on November 30, 2021. She was the spouse of the late **Michael Hemminger '69** until his passing in 2013.

Cameron Huth of Medina, Ohio passed away on November 11, 2021. He attended in the mid-2000s.

William (Bill) Luntz of Canton, Ohio passed away on January 1, 2022. He was on an advisory board through the Office of Advancement.

Kenneth Mahler of Ottumwa, Iowa passed away on February 13, 2022. He attended in the early 1960s.

Robert "Bob" Mang of Punta Gorda, Florida passed away on March 6, 2022. He was on an advisory board through the Office of Advancement.

Continued on Page 24

Mount Union Employees

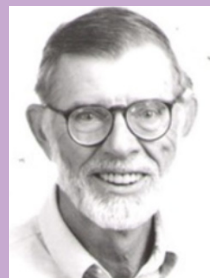
Dr. Charles "Chuck" Brueske

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Brueske of Bellingham, Washington passed away on April 22, 2022. Dr. Brueske taught biology for 40 years until his retirement.



Dr. Donald Buckey

Dr. Donald Buckey of Sebring, Ohio passed away on December 2, 2021. Dr. Buckey taught at Mount Union from 1973-1998.



Lloyd Gray

Lloyd Gray of Alliance, Ohio passed away on January 1, 2022. He was a security officer.

James Kinser

James Kinser of Homeworth, Ohio passed away on April 6, 2022. He was a plumber from 1986-2002.

Helen "Sweetie" Miller

Helen "Sweetie" Miller of Alliance, Ohio passed away on April 22, 2022. She was a housekeeper until her retirement.

Patricia Schmitt

Patricia Schmitt of Alliance, Ohio passed away on February 9, 2022. She worked in the business office.

Barbara (Faber) Stoffer

Barbara (Faber) Stoffer of Butler, Ohio passed away on January 17, 2022. She worked in the cafeteria for 20 years.

Phyllis (Crutchley) Mayforth of Marion, Indiana passed away on January 12, 2021. She attended in the late 1950s.

William Nelson Jr. of Lisbon, Ohio passed away on November 19, 2021. He attended in the early 1990s.

William Ordway of Rockford, Illinois passed away on January 1, 2022. He attended in the early 1960s.

Craig Rice of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio passed away on December 6, 2021. He attended in the late 1980s.

Franklin Sanor of Beloit, Ohio passed away on December 22, 2021. He attended during the 1960s.

Barbara (Zuber) Scanlon of Alliance, Ohio passed away on December 27, 2021. She attended from the early 1950s through the mid-1970s.

Cloyd Warnes of Sacramento, California passed away on April 19, 2022. He attended in the early 1940s.

Albert "Tim" Wilson of Granger, Indiana passed away on March 28, 2022. He attended in mid-1960s.

GET INVOLVED!

There are many ways to stay connected to your alma mater and enjoy Mount Union after leaving campus. Whether you like volunteering at events, mentoring students, or even gathering fellow alumni and friends together in your city, we have ways for you to be involved! A variety of time commitments allow you to customize your experience and impact our community. Consider joining the Alumni Association, M Club, or Mount Union Women today! For more information on how to get involved or make a gift, visit mountunion.edu/alumni-organizations.



SCAN THIS WITH YOUR PHONE!

The Mount Union Alumni Association operates under a three-committee structure. No matter your location or time-commitment, there's something for you!

- Connecting to Alumni
- Connecting to Campus
- Alumni Weekend and Awards



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

M Club is the varsity letter winners' association. A student-athlete lettering in a varsity sport (men's or women's) at Mount Union is automatically a member upon graduation. The group serves to keep athletes connected with each other and raise funds to support the current student-athletes (and teams) on campus!



M Club provides opportunities to get involved by attending meetings, athletic competitions, and events, as well as supporting Raider athletics. Up to 100% of each gift can be designated to the sport(s) of your choice or the general M Club fund!

The Mount Union Women organization has been supporting the education of women at Mount Union since 1933.

MOUNT UNION

Women

The group raises funds to provide scholarships to deserving students on campus identifying as female.

As a nonprofit organization, Mount Union Women staffs the concession stands at home football games and hosts various social events for alumni and friends. Any female graduate or friend of Mount Union may join! For information on how to get involved or to donate to the scholarship fund, visit mountunionwomen.org. You can also see what the group is up to by following along on Facebook and Instagram!



SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWED TO HONOR DR. PAT (FOLEY '73) MATTHEWS



A former student of Dr. Patricia (Foley '73) Matthews has made an anonymous gift of \$25,000 to endow a scholarship in honor of Matthew's exceptional service to Mount Union and its students.

After 40 years of teaching at Mount Union, Matthews retired as professor of economics, accounting, and business administration in 2015. She

earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Mount Union in 1973, as well as Master of Arts and Doctor of Business Administration degrees from Kent State University.

The lead donor of the scholarship insisted on remaining anonymous, feeling strongly that this scholarship should be entirely about Matthews and the incredible impression her teaching and support had on each of her students.

When Matthews learned a former student was choosing to honor her in this way, she was shocked.

"I don't even know what to say. I can't believe someone would do something like this with me in mind," said Matthews. "My days at Mount Union were awesome. I really appreciate the honor, and I hope whoever receives the scholarship appreciates their experience. Mount Union is such a special place to me."

To many of her former students and colleagues, this honor is hardly a surprise. Dr. Amber (Hutchinson '03) Hunt, assistant professor of finance at Mount Union, remembers Matthews fondly.

"Dr. Matthews has a gift for connecting with students, and her dedication to all students, past and present, transcends beyond the classroom," said Hunt. "I am honored to continue her work as a finance faculty member at Mount Union. I know the caliber of program I inherited is top notch since I saw firsthand, as one of her former students, how dedicated she was to the preparing finance leaders for meaningful careers and responsible citizenship."

Matthews' influence on her students, the business program, and the institution is undeniable, and this scholarship is a well-deserved honor in recognition of her loyal generosity.

The award will benefit a student studying business or mathematics with a minimum 3.5 GPA. Preference will be given to a female upperclassman and/or first-generation college student with financial need. This renewable scholarship will be selected by the Office of Student Financial Aid in accordance with the approved procedures of Mount Union.

To make a gift to the scholarship, please visit giving.mountunion.edu/Matthews.



"I really appreciate this honor...Mount Union is such a special place to me."

-Dr. Pat (Foley '73) Matthews

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.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

ENDOWMENT

An endowment fund is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding that is essential for long-term financial stability.



TRUST FUND

Invested to ensure longevity and lasting security



STRONG FOUNDATION

Needed to increase the future growth of the University



LONG-TERM IMPACT

Investment over time, maximizes financial stability

THE MOUNT UNION FUND

Annual gifts to The Mount Union Fund are critical to the day-to-day operations of the University.



CHECKING ACCOUNT

Available to use for immediate needs



EASILY ACCESSIBLE

Used for annual expenses not covered by student tuition



SHORT-TERM IMPACT

Small gifts make a big impact

Your gift to the University of Mount Union is an investment in current and future students. To learn more, visit mountunion.edu/giving.



mountunion.edu

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Refer a
FUTURE RAIDER

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

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

**mountunion.edu/
visit-campus**