

# MOUNT UNION

MOUNT UNION MAGAZINE | [MOUNTUNION.EDU/MAGAZINE](https://mountunion.edu/magazine) | #MOUNTUNION

FALL/WINTER  
2022





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# Get Social with #MountUnion



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## TALKING POINTS



### M CLUB HALL OF FAME INDUCTS CLASS OF 2022

The Mount Union M Club Hall of Fame inducted its class of 2022 on November 4. The new members were recognized during halftime of the November 5 football game.

Pictured at that ceremony were: (front, l-r): Paul Gulling '80, Helen Reich (accepting on behalf of the late Lenny Reich),

Matthew Keller '96, Shaun Spisak '04, Jason Jones '95, Danny Anderson '03, Randy Cook '87; (back, l-r): Lisa (South '94) Downey, Kevin Hopkins '92, Justin Rodhe '07, Neal Richards '97, Seth Peterson '00, Thomas Bauer '00, Kelvin Jackson '88, Sara Leffler '93; not pictured: Sean Moore '97 and Matthew Johnson '96.

### ATHLETICS UPDATES

- Mount Union's women's cross country team finished 28<sup>th</sup> and the men's cross country team placed 31<sup>st</sup> at the 2022 NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships at Forest Akers Golf Club in East Lansing, Michigan.
- Golfer Mattie Muckleroy '25 earned individual first-place finishes in three different matches and was named the OAC Golfer of the Week for the week of September 12.
- Soccer players Andrea Decker '23, Madison Pepper '23, Josh Palmer '22, Carter Hancock '24, and Jamon McCourt '24 were named to All-OAC teams.
- Volleyball players Heaven Bartell '25, Alyssa Kasaris '23, Maria Ellesin '22, and Alexis Meyer '25 were named to All-OAC teams.
- Mount Union had 66 fall student-athletes named to the Academic All-OAC list. To be Academic All-OAC, a student-athlete must have been at the school for at least a year and/or be sophomore status, achieve at least a 3.50 cumulative grade point average, and maintain varsity status.



## HONORS AND AWARDS

Mount Union continues to be recognized by several national organizations for its academic quality, value, and efforts in sustainability and civic engagement. Below are some of the most notable acknowledgments.

### U.S. News and World Report

- #30 among Midwest Regional Universities (*Upgraded classification*)
- #18 Best Value among Midwest Regional Universities
- Top performer in Social Mobility

### Niche

- Top 6% for Best College Athletics in America (#2 in Ohio)
- Top 12% for Best College Campuses in America (#8 in Ohio)
- Top 15% for Colleges with the Best Student Life in America (#8 in Ohio)

### ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

- Top 82 in America for Civic Engagement
- Named a “Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting”

### The Princeton Review

- Guide to Green Colleges 2023 (*12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year*)



## ACADEMIC MALL NAMED FOR GORISES

During Alumni Weekend, Mount Union named its academic mall the Goris Academic Mall in honor of Alliance residents Brad and Sue Goris.

The Gorises were recognized for their decades of leadership, generosity, and involvement in the Mount Union community. Sue serves as a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

“Giving back is second nature for the Gorises,” said Greg King, vice president for university advancement at Mount Union. “With all their support for the community and Mount Union, we felt it was only fitting that one of the primary locations on campus be named in their honor.”

## MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES HARRIS, ZEE TO PRESENT 2023 SCHOOLER LECTURE

Mount Union will host a moderated discussion featuring mental health advocates Ginger Zee and Dan Harris for the 2023 Schooler Lecture on April 27, 2023.

Zee is the chief meteorologist at ABC News and the managing editor of ABC's Climate Unit. She covers the nation's weather headlines on Good Morning America and across all ABC News broadcasts and digital platforms, and is a very relatable if surprising face on depression, helping to lessen the stigma surrounding mental health issues through her books "Natural Disaster: I Cover Them. I am One." and "A Little Closer to Home: How I Found the Calm After the Storm."



Harris is a former co-anchor for the weekend edition of Good Morning America on ABC News, as well as a former correspondent for such broadcasts such as Nightline and World News Tonight. He has earned Murrow and Emmy awards for his reporting.

Harris is also the author of the #1 "New York Times" best-selling book "10% Happier," a book about a fidgety, skeptical news anchor who stumbles upon meditation. He

has become a leading voice for pushing for the practice into the mainstream and has spoken about the topic across corporations, health and wellness organizations, and schools and universities. "10% Happier" is available as a meditation app and in podcast form. Harris' most recent book, "Meditation for Fidgety Skeptics," is also on the best-selling list.

Tickets for the lecture will be made available February 23. To learn more, visit [mountunion.edu/schooler-lecture](http://mountunion.edu/schooler-lecture).

## JURICK '15 NAMED TO SPORTSBUSINESS JOURNAL'S "NEW VOICES" LIST

Mount Union sport business and marketing alumna Haley Jurick '15 has been named as one of SportsBusiness Journal's (SBJ) New Voices Under 30 for 2022.

Jurick, who serves as director of client development at Chicago-based agency rEvolution, works with clients on media buys and placement in national and regional outlets.

"I remember hearing speakers talk about the SBJ in classes at Mount Union, so it is pretty surreal to be recognized in a listing like this," Jurick said.

SBJ and a panel of 26 outside judges selected Jurick and the other 29 honorees out of a pool of more than 200 nominees.



# CLASSES OF 1970, 1971 HOLD REUNIONS AFTER COVID-19 DELAYS

1970



Pictured top (front, l-r) : Connie Flynn, Judy Sicilia, Jan Johnson Davis, Leigh Mainwaring, Cheryl Berardi, Tish Biggs, Elizabeth Jenkins, Ruth Acosta Hamilton; (top, l-r) Kay Hettler, David Blank, Jim Woodruff, Paul Cubick, Steve Stanislaw, Dick Shields, Skip Baran, Dave Venter, Linda DeLonais, and Bruce Sedgwick.

1971



Pictured bottom (front, l-r) : Cathy Fenstermaker, Susan Wasiniak, Jackie Simons, Lynnne Sedgwick, Grace Chalker, Cindy Garnes, Elly Chain, Liz Williams; (top, l-r) Kate Stephens, Charli Kohli, Jerry Walters, Pat Gates, Mike McConnell, Rick North, Terry Shears, Ken Chalker, Bob Jenkins, Andy Joseph, John Flynn, and Jeneanne Semberg.

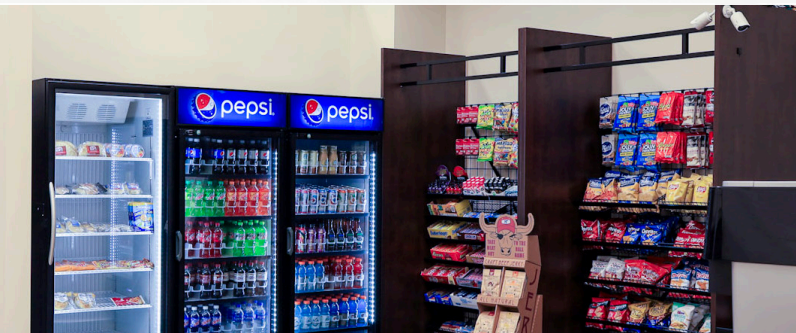
## ADDITIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS



The band room in Cope Music Hall received a new ceiling, acoustic treatments, new flooring, additional storage, and was repainted.



A new hammock garden has been added near the campus lakes and can hold up to four hammocks.



The “Market-C” 24-hour convenient store is unstaffed and open for those working in the new study rooms behind the store.



The Class of 1972 gifted the amphitheater near the lakes for outdoor entertainment.

## MASTER’S CONCENTRATION IN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LAUNCHED

Adapting to the continual evolution and transition of P-12 learning, Mount Union’s Master of Education program has announced a new concentration in instructional design and technology (*see page 7*).

This new concentration focuses on providing educators with the skills and preparation to be leaders in online and digital learning from both theoretical and practical perspectives in the classroom. It also ensures that education professionals seeking a career transition outside of traditional classroom teaching are ready for their own industrial advancement.

Additionally, teaching professionals employed at Mount Union partner districts receive a 10% tuition discount, and Mount Union alumni receive a 5% tuition discount.

## PITTMAN GIVES \$10,000 GIFT TO SUPPORT MOUNT UNION ENGINEERING

Dale Pittman, owner and president of Pittman Engineering, Inc. and Anstine Machining Corporation in Alliance, donated \$10,000 in support of Mount Union’s School of Engineering and its Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Baja Car project.

The SAE Baja project occurs annually, during which mechanical engineering students design and build an all-terrain vehicle from the ground up and compete across the country against the top 100 engineering colleges and universities at the conclusion of each academic year.

Pittman, an Alliance native who also serves on Mount Union’s Engineering Advisory Board, has assisted students each of the past eight consecutive years as the technical advisor and corporate sponsor of the project.



Dr. Chad Korach, director of Mount Union’s School of Engineering (left) accepts a check from Dale Pittman.



## Burnout, shortages, and why we need to celebrate teachers

By: *Dr. Melissa Askren Edgehouse '98, Professor of Education*

If you know a teacher, you've probably been told how drastically the job has changed since the onset of the COVID pandemic. And if you have teachers you're close to – spouses or siblings or relatives, neighbors, fellow parents on your kids' sports team – you know how burned out the last two-plus years have left them. They're being asked to do much more than before, often with far fewer resources, and in modalities that are brand new. Teachers are opting to retire mid-year, pursue new careers, or make their side hustles their primary form of employment. These educators are leaving the field that many thought they'd remain in their entire lives. The situation is dire, and the stakes are high.

### **The Ever-changing Role of Today's Teacher**

The myriad ripple effects of COVID and quarantine (that we know of) – learning how to deliver content remotely, the rampant absences due to illness and quarantine, covering classes as a substitute teacher for a colleague, increased mental health issues, the clear and measurable brain drain that students are showing up to classes with, to name a few – leave an uncertain future for the field of education. I have worked in education since the late 1990s, first as a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Fairless Local Schools and now as a professor of education at Mount Union; both are alma maters of mine.

Teachers are giving up their much-needed planning periods to substitute teach for an absent colleague; principals and superintendents are doing the same when no one is available to sub in the building. Rarely does a week go by that I don't get a phone call or email from a nearby district asking us about our recent graduates who could immediately substitute teach.

At the same time, even though a day in the life of a teacher looks dramatically different today than it did three years ago, our accountability system hasn't changed much. Teachers have been asked to know more and do more, and the expectations are higher. What have they done in response? They have and continue to rise to the challenge, daily. They work longer hours

to support their peers and they differentiate more to meet their students' needs. We know the pandemic did harm to kids, but educators are still evaluated based on student performance (among other factors), so the increases in stress are not surprising given these new realities.

A group of leaders from universities, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Higher Education recently offered summits across the state regarding how we can solve the educator shortages we're currently facing. We're all working hard to try to identify strategies that will solve the crisis. One theme that keeps coming through is respect for teachers. We can only assume that as respect has decreased, shortages have increased.

### **Celebrating and Respecting Our Educators**

The future is as uncertain as ever, but Ohio's teacher workforce, versed in best practices, led by visionaries at the state level and in their buildings, and, crucially, armed with the empathy and compassion that they've always had but have now activated in incredible ways, is more than up to the challenge. Now is the time to support our educators. Our teachers deserve to be celebrated and appreciated so that they avoid burnout and continue to have the stamina (and support) to do amazing work each day.

We then need that amazing work to become contagious so that more young people have the drive to become our future educators. We need kids to appreciate their teachers and see them as role models and want to be like them in the future. If we all build momentum together and celebrate our educators, we could curb the shortages and offer the education our kids deserve.

So, the next time you see a teacher in the grocery store or at a ball game, take the time to celebrate them. Thank them for the tireless hard work and peerless dedication they offer our children.

If you're a teacher, thank you. I appreciate you. Keep doing amazing work with our kids.





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# *Purpose-Driven* LEADERSHIP

Taylor Cline '16 Makes Her Mark in the Field of Engineering





## 14%.

That is the percentage of women who made up all engineering employment in 2021, according to 2022 data from the Society of Women Engineers. While small, that number continues to grow thanks to the conscientious and visible leadership of engineers like Taylor Cline '16.

As far back as she could recall, Cline, a Madison, Ohio native, wanted to be an engineer without even knowing what they did.

“I remember looking at my dad, who was an iron worker, and asking him, ‘What’s a job you can do to just solve problems and puzzles all the time?’ and he told me that was an engineer,” Cline said.

As she continued to excel throughout school, Cline narrowed her focus to two institutions to continue her academic journey: an engineering stalwart in The University of Akron and a then-engineering upstart in Mount Union. As her family encountered some financial struggles, her mom was working two jobs and thought the private university option might be out of reach.

“My mom didn’t even want to visit Mount,” Cline said, grinning. “Once I visited and appreciated the one-on-one interactions with faculty in the program, we sat down with financial aid and learned how affordable Mount could be, and the rest is history.”

### Impactful Experiences

When asked about her favorite Mount Union memory, Cline, who was very involved throughout her undergraduate career in athletics and as a sister of Alpha Chi Omega, had the pensiveness of someone answering the “Final Jeopardy” question. In the end, she shared an experience that is actually a requirement of engineering majors.

“The global engineering trip to Belize was incredible,” she said, reflecting. “Getting to make those memories with my peers



Top: Cline (second from right) poses with a group of robotics students she mentored in 2022.

Bottom: One of Cline’s rendered designs for a project in Copley Township, Ohio.

and having the chance to serve an underdeveloped community are things I've brought with me into my career today."

The idea of service-learning made a profound impact on Cline, and as Commencement neared upon returning stateside, her future began to take shape before her eyes in a uniquely serendipitous way.

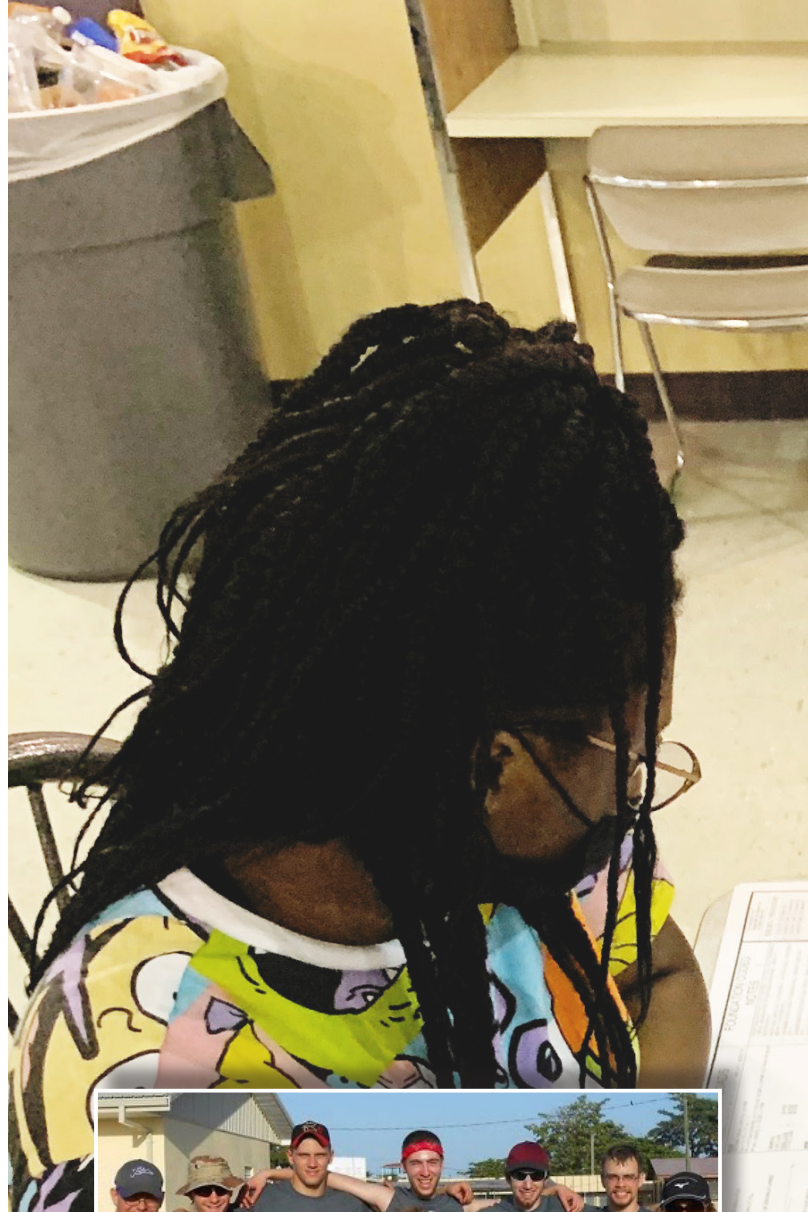
"My junior year at Mount, I was awarded an Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges scholarship provided by CESO, Inc." she said. "When I went in to meet with the company to thank them, Dr. [Hans] Tritico pushed me to ask if they had any internship openings. They did, which then led to me being hired full-time at CESO before I even graduated."

### Making Her Mark

Cline is in her seventh year at CESO, and her impressive ascent has led her to be a lead project engineer after earning two promotions in that time. In this role, she leads a team of traffic engineers and works on designs and traffic patterns for major clients like Love's Travel Stops, FedEx, and Sheetz.

In continuing to climb the CESO ranks, one of Cline's core beliefs is finding purpose through serving others, clearly illustrated through her fond memories of the Belize trip and other Mount Union service-learning experiences. It is also one of the reasons she enjoys her career at CESO, which has annual "Impact Days" when offices close and employees volunteer at local nonprofits.

In having found a professional home at CESO, Cline became more comfortable in being the authentic leader she knew she



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"The global engineering trip to Belize was incredible. Getting to make those memories with my peers and having the chance to serve an underdeveloped community are things I've brought with me into my career today."

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*Cline currently serves as a mentor with the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program of Greater Akron-Canton, where she shares her expertise with high school students interested in engineering.*



had the potential to be. Along with being a female leader in her industry, Cline, who identifies as a lesbian, still had slight apprehension about fully opening up and coming out at work. Those worries were eased after being welcomed by her peers when she came out to them, continuing the success of a positive environment where she could thrive and lead.

“I was definitely nervous to share with my bosses that yeah, I’m gay, hoping it would not change anything,” Cline said. “But the amount of love and support I received after coming out to them has been incredible and one of the reasons I continue to love my job. The reputation I had built for myself and my work helped too, and it’s only gotten better as my career has advanced.”

### **Helping the Next Generation**

Alongside the service done through CESO and her personal endeavors, Cline also volunteers her time as a mentor through a variety of outlets. Currently, she serves as a member of Mount Union’s Engineering Advisory Board, advises her high school alma mater’s all-female robotics team, and has been a mentor with the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE)

Mentor Program of Greater Akron-Canton for the past five years. During her time with ACE, Cline has mentored dozens of high school students at three different schools. She has also created a pipeline between ACE and Mount Union’s Experience Engineering Summer Program so that interested high school students can get hands-on engineering opportunities before college. Regardless of project or interest, Cline is proud to be a resource for students.

“My advice to future engineering students is always to keep going. Even though it can be tough, if you are willing to do the work, the experience pays off,” Cline said. “I mean, I used to think the liberal arts classes we took were not useful, but now much of my job is writing reports and presenting them, which is both important and kind of funny looking back.”

Cline is simply one example of a woman leading with impact in a male-led industry, especially as the percentage of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields continues to climb. She and a growing group of innovators are ensuring the next generation is prepared to advance in their pursuit of inspiring change.

# Meaningful MENTORSHIP

**Dr. Nicole JOHNSON,**

Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies

**Martina STARKEY '24**

Martina Starkey '24, a psychology major and peacebuilding minor, explains that Dr. Nicole Johnson, professor of religious studies and chair of the Department of Justice, Diversity, and Interdisciplinary Humanities, is a professor with whom she confides.

“I met Dr. Johnson when I signed up to take her Religion Through Film humanities course in the spring of 2021, I then attended the spring break trip to Washington, DC with her too,” said Starkey. “There, she encouraged me to pursue a minor in peacebuilding and social justice.”

Starkey adds that, occasionally, she and Johnson grab lunch and dinner or just a cup of coffee to discuss matters like advice for graduate school applications, potential career paths, or just a casual conversation.

“Dr. Johnson is always willing to help her students and she is passionate about what she does,” said Starkey. “In DC, on Capitol Hill, she treated her students as colleagues and encouraged us to step outside of our comfort zone to gain real-world experience.”

Johnson explained that Starkey is a good conversationalist which makes their talks comfortable and easy. Johnson added that she enjoys having in-person encounters with Starkey.

“Martina gets things done like few other students! She is always willing to go the extra mile and roll up her sleeves to accomplish a task,” said Johnson. “She’s also unafraid of new challenges.”

Johnson explained that Starkey is also tenacious and has a warm and friendly personality. Starkey never quits a task she sets herself to do, and she speaks her mind in a truthful and very mature manner.

Four Mount Union students discuss how members of the faculty and administrative staff have become trusted advisors and friends throughout their college careers.

{BY FATIMA MAGAÑA '22}





**Dr. Ivory LYONS**, Professor of Africana Studies and Religion  
**Anthony YOUNG '23**

Anthony Young '23, civil engineering major and mathematics and Africana studies double minor, explains that without Dr. Ivory Lyons' presence and support in his academic career and personal life, he would not be where he is today.

"I met Dr. Lyons when I signed up for his First-Year Seminar class titled Malcolm X. As we share the same race and culture, he understood the many unforeseen challenges I would face as well as the issues I was enduring" said Young. "Dr. Lyons reassured me that the effort I put into my work is enough to obtain the grades I wanted and to achieve the goals I set for myself."

Outside of the classroom and the Mount Union community, Young states that he has a very close relationship with Lyons, as they often meet each other for lunch and dinner.

"During the summer, I was able to meet his wonderful wife over dinner" Young said. "I consider Dr. Lyons and his family my own family because 'family' does not always have to be determined by bloodline.

"Dr. Lyons is someone who likes leading by example to help people step outside their comfort zone and gain real world experience. This illustrates how he is an extrovert and a humorous person, yet he knows how to turn the 'work mode' button off," Young added.

Young stated that Lyons is a dependable and open-minded person because he comes from a similar background to his students. They look up to him as an example of where hard work and dedication can get a person in life.

"Dr. Lyons is very experienced, which allows him to be accepting of others and their reactions to difficult subjects covered in classes; he has the ability to connect with his students on a personal level," said Young. "Throughout my time at Mount, I've had great professors, and have been especially impacted by Dr. Lyons."

Lyons explained that he and Young are not just a professor and a student, but friends. He connected with Young because upon meeting him, he saw much of himself in Young.

"Anthony is a serious student who has his feet on the ground, can adapt to situations, and can be approached easily," said Lyons. "He even accompanied me to Mississippi to drop my wife off, so I would not have to drive alone.

"Anthony is also committed to his education and to helping his family, specifically his mother," said Lyons. "I am very proud of him because he has stuck with his studies, and he is intrigued to learn about Africana studies and the culture. I truly admire him."

**Ron HOLDEN**, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Diversity and Inclusion  
**Aaliyah KINNARD '24**

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Aaliyah Kinnard '24, psychology major and theatre minor, explains that Ron Holden has become her go-to person throughout her years at Mount Union because of his trustworthiness.

"I met Ron my freshman year when I stopped in at student affairs to ask for something. He saw me waiting, approached me, and made conversation with me," said Kinnard. "From there on out, he's become someone important to me."

In their first interaction, Holden directed Kinnard to Raiderfest to explore the different organizations. Although she did not know him well yet, Kinnard trusted him and went to Raiderfest where she learned about the Black Student Union (BSU). Thanks to Holden's suggestion, being a part of BSU and the organization itself has become a big part of her life.

When asked to describe Holden's personality, Kinnard described him as dependable. Holden, according to Kinnard, treats everyone he meets with respect regardless of whether he has known them for years or has just met them.

"When I had no idea of what I wanted to do in college, Ron helped me figure out the career I wanted to pursue," Kinnard said. "He is a compassionate person who opens his door to everyone and anything even when it does not pertain to his job title. I know that when I need to talk about things not related to school, I can go to him because he truly wants people to feel good and look into the future."

When discussing Kinnard's personality, Holden explained that she has many of the qualities he does because people can approach her with anything they need. Although Holden further explained that when Kinnard sees someone in need of help, she takes the initiative to go up to them and offer them assistance.

"Aaliyah is also a driven-oriented and selfless person who sets high standards and goals for herself, works hard in anything she does, and strives to achieve perfection while putting others' needs before her own to help them. These are admirable traits in a person."



*Since this story was written, Ron Holden accepted a new position and departed the University. Mount Union thanks him for his dedication to serving students during his time on campus.*





**Dawn ADAMS '97**, Director of International Student Services

**Sofia RUMALDO CONDORI '23** and **Alma LOZANO-MONTENEGRO '23**

Alma Lozano-Montenegro '23, an integrated media major and gender studies and communication studies double minor, and Sofia Rumaldo Condori '23, accounting major and business administration minor, explain that their first interaction with Dawn Adams was virtually due to the coronavirus restrictions during the 2021 spring semester.

Upon meeting each other in person, Lozano-Montenegro and Rumaldo explained that Adams was extremely friendly and welcoming. The international students met Adams at the 2021 fall orientation, during which Rumaldo states that Adams helped them get acquainted and accommodated in their dorms.

“Dawn was the first person I met in Ohio, and she was always open to answer all my questions. She was also helpful because she supported me in every way she could to ensure I was ready for my arrival on campus,” said Lozano-Montenegro.

Lozano-Montenegro added that she and the rest of the international students see Adams as their “mother from Ohio” because she is always willing to step outside of her job role to help them in anything they need.

Rumaldo explained that Adams is the person she relies on most. If she has any questions or doubts, Adams can answer them or guide her in the direction in which she needs to go.

“Many of us do not have our own transportation, and Ms. Dawn takes us out on our days off to shop for groceries, or she takes us to explore cities near Alliance,” Rumaldo said. “She always has funny stories that make me laugh; I enjoy talking about anything with her.”

Both Lozano-Montenegro and Rumaldo describe Adams as a generous and responsible person. Adams goes out of her way to help the international students, so they have access to everything an American student has.

“Dawn is a friendly person because she is always in a good mood and makes us feel loved and happy to be around her,” said Lozano-Montenegro. “She is a jovial person because you always see her with a smile, and she sees the positive side of all situations,” added Rumaldo.

Adams described Lozano-Montenegro and Rumaldo as driven because they take advantage of all the opportunities offered to them, so they get the full impact of the American experience.

“Alma and Sofia are focused students – they make sure they are on track to graduate while also enjoying their time on campus with friends,” said Adams.

Adams too, described her students as friendly and genuinely happy. “They are always smiling and exude such happiness that makes people want to get to know them and be around them.”

# CLASS NOTES

Class Notes to be included in the Spring/Summer 2023 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before April 30, 2023.

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).

## 1960s

**James Chester '69**

who's part of the Central Intelligence Agency alumni, was welcomed back to Langley on Saturday, September 10 in recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the agency. Jim joined his former directorate of operations colleagues, as well as other agency directorates, in celebration of this milestone.



**Chuck Ditchendorf '62** and **Ellen Campbell '03** are fellow Rotarians in the Marietta Morning Rotary Club, and both are Paul Harris Fellows. Ellen recently organized a very successful 5k run that raised money for the club's reading and scholarship activities.



## 1970s

**Beth (Rigel '72) Daugherty** published a book, "Virginia Woolf's Apprenticeship: Becoming an Essayist," in July 2022. For more information, visit: [edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-virginia-woolf-s-apprenticeship.html](http://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-virginia-woolf-s-apprenticeship.html). She retired from Otterbein University in July 2020 after 36 years of teaching.



**Susan (Hartsel '71) and Dan '71 Gerome** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 17, 2022.



**Shari (Creed '72) and Mike '71 McConnell** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 5, 2022.



**Diane Wondisford '74** was named one of 75 key figures who have shaped the American opera field over the past 50 years.

## 1980s

**Joanna (Greene '85) Jones** and friends from the classes of 1984 through 1986 met this past summer in State College, Pennsylvania. Kneeling: **Nancy (McLoone '85) Ziemba**, **Heather (Clark '84) McGee**. Back row: **Andy Mudd '85**, **Dr. Pamela (Toot '86) Lanford**, **Dr. Bill McGee '85**, **Bob Jones '85**, and **Joanna (Greene '85) Jones**.



**Ken Rector '88, Doug Izzard '88, Michael Ross '88, and David Demers '88** were on the first tee of the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. The four alumni spent 10 days playing seven of the top courses across Scotland in July 2022.

## 1990s

**Cathy (LaForest '91) Petra** earned a gold medal in the javelin throw and earned bronze medals in the discus and the shot put, while participating in the 2022 National Senior Games. Her javelin throw of 98'1" places her eighth in the all-time top 10 performances in the NSGA for her age group. Cathy is currently employed as an athletic trainer.

**Patricia Russell '90**

earned a Ph.D. in health psychology in May 2022 from The University of Texas at San Antonio. She is working as a health scientist at the Rocky Mountain Veterans Affairs Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center for Suicide Prevention in Denver, Colorado.



**Christina (Sommers '92) Sussmann** wrote a movie based on the book "Angel Mine" by Jimmy Taaffe. Filmed in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York City, it is scheduled for release in early 2023. Christina is an award-winning screenwriter and sought-after writer. She also owns The Affordable Ghostwriter.

**Jeremy Tiermini '94** received the State University of New York's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service during the 2022 spring semester.

## 2000s

**Rachael (Moser '04) Corke** moved to Luxembourg to build a new lower school theatre program at the International School Luxembourg.

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE



Have you been to campus recently? If not, I challenge you to step on campus and reminisce a bit! One of my favorite reasons to come back to campus is one of the reasons it brought me there in the first place: It feels like HOME! It takes me back to those carefree days of classes, amazing opportunities, friends for life, and memories I won't ever be able to duplicate. Why not step back into those memories while you take in today's college scene:

take a walk on campus, eat in the campus center, or visit one of the recent upgrades like Oak Hall, the Kehres Plaza near the stadium, or the new amphitheater next to our beautiful campus lakes.

Most recently, I had the opportunity to step on campus for Mount Union's Alumni Weekend and Homecoming. What a great way to see the familiar faces of Mount Union. We honored alumni and friends who have stood out and made a difference at the Alumni Awards Recognition Ceremony. I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Gervasi, who has graciously

and enthusiastically taken on the reins of leading the campus community as our interim president. I heard the roar of the crowd cheering on a win at Kehres Stadium.

You may wonder how you can keep the spirit of your time at Mount Union alive. Here are a few ways we need *you*:

- Talk about Mount Union (especially to young students!). Tell them why you loved our campus, programs, experiences, etc. You are our best recruiters!
- Get back in contact with college advisors, coaches, or professors in your field. Guest speakers, mentors, advocates, and connections are all needed!
- Give! You can make a difference in the ability of today's students to continue their education at Mount Union.
- Join the Alumni Association. We share ideas, help at events on campus, and plan ways to connect to students and other alums.
- Above all, bleed that purple. Thank YOU for being a part of the Mount Union story.

Go Raiders!  
- Jen (Thurin '03) Slack  
Alumni Association President

**Jessica (Harding '03)** and **Sekhar Mamidi** were married on June 10-11, 2022, in Massillon and Canton, Ohio. The couple resides in Massillon, Ohio.

**Crystal (Liptak '06)** and **Phillip '06 Mansfield** announce the birth of their second daughter, **Lydia Brooklyn** on June 1, 2021.



**Sarah (Brockett '09)** and **Ryan '09 McFeely** announce the birth of a daughter, **Emma Gabriella**, in December 2021. She joins siblings **Brooke**, **Addison**, and **Lillian**.

**Lara (Mueller '04)** and **Bob Lejsovka** announce the birth of a son, **Calvin Robert**, on December 29, 2021.

## 2010s

**Makayla Hart '19** and **Chris Brown '18** were married in May 2022.



**Gina (Serluco '10)** and **Andrew '11 Brown** announce the birth of a daughter, **Mirabella Giulia**, on May 1, 2022. Andrew is currently account manager for Happy Floors, and Gina is the principal of Grant Elementary School in Willoughby, Ohio.



**Marissa (Earl '13)** and **Sean '14 Butler** announce the birth of a daughter, **Rylee Ann** on February 4, 2022.



**Savannah Morris '18** and **AJ Digby '20** were married on February 12, 2022. Mount Union alumni in the wedding included **Erica Mascio '18** and **Tanner Slack '20**.





**2022 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS**  
(l-r) Roy Clunk '77, Dodie Davis Alumni Service Award; Ida Gorman '13, Young Alumni Award; Dr. Bill Coleman, McKinley Fellow Award.



**2022 ALUMNI WEEKEND HOMEcoming**





# ALUMNI WEEKEND AND HOMECOMING



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2023

# SUPPORT

## FOR STUDENTS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

To senior Caleb Thurman, Mount Union means opportunity.

“I’ve had opportunities to travel the world in the international choir tour, opportunities to network and meet different people, opportunities to learn in the classroom and outside of it too,” Thurman said.

One of Thurman’s first experiences with Mount Union was a choral masterclass at his high school with Mount Union’s own Dr. Grant Cook.

“In my experience with masterclasses, you sing for the visiting instructor, and then you get ripped apart with critique,” said Thurman. “Dr. Cook’s vibe was so different. With him, we read poetry and different messages to help us find the motivation within ourselves to improve rather than be motivated by someone else. It was amazing.”

Once Thurman learned about the Choral Participation Scholarship, he couldn’t wait to visit campus.

“I visited Mount my junior year and met with, now retired, Professor DeSario. He was one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever met, and he really inspired me. I learned so much in the few classes I had with him,” said Thurman. “That visit made up my mind, which was great because then I could fully enjoy my senior year of high school.”

Thurman was a talented wrestler throughout high school and was recruited by several universities for the sport including Mount Union, but ultimately had to give it up.

“I have both rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn’s disease, so it’s just too hard on my body,” said Thurman. “If I didn’t have choir and my fraternity, I would go crazy.”

When he got to campus, Thurman learned there was a fraternity involved in the Serious Fun Children’s Network, a global community of camps and programs for seriously ill children. More specifically, the fraternity worked with Flying Horse Farms, which Thurman attended for years. He didn’t know which fraternity was affiliated with these organizations, but he was determined to find out.



CALEB THURMAN '22  
Political Science Major  
Akron, Ohio

“I saw someone wearing their letters at the student center and asked what their philanthropy focus was,” Thurman shared. “Turned out it was Phi Kappa Tau. I told him about my experience with the camp, went to the house to meet some of the members, and the rest is history.”

This spring, all Thurman had built at Mount Union was threatened by some financial trouble. He had to use most of his savings throughout the pandemic and hadn’t had enough time to build it back up. Fortunately, Caleb heard about the Student Emergency Fund and applied for the aid that is now helping him afford his last semester at Mount Union.

“The people who have given to this fund are truly a blessing. This award took away the stress of my finances,” Caleb explained. “The fact that people understand that there is inequality in the world and across this campus and are thoughtful enough to pay forward their good fortune to people struggling in school trying to better themselves, it makes such a difference. It really all adds up and is such a blessing.”

As for what’s next, Thurman recently accepted a job offer to serve as a business specialist for the non-profit Downtown Akron Partnership, and is thrilled to impact the city he loves through his work with this organization.

The Student Emergency Fund launched as part of The Mount Union Fund in March 2020 as a response to the financial hardships students were facing resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the fund serves as a crucial resource for Purple Raiders in dire financial need.

Whether a student has exhausted all financial aid and are still falling short on their tuition bill, or something unexpected like a family illness changes their circumstances, the Student Emergency Fund is there to help students continue their education.

Vincent Fung '23 applied to Mount Union not knowing exactly where Ohio was on a map.

“I came to the states from Hong Kong when I was 17 to attend a private high school in Kansas,” Fung said. “I didn’t even speak English when I first moved to America. I don’t know how I did it, but I did it.”

While in Kansas, Fung heard about Mount Union from one of his teachers and decided to apply. He was accepted and decided it is where he would attend school.

“I didn’t even look into any other universities. I really trusted that teacher’s opinion and she knew the former president Dr. Merriman,” Fung explained. “It’s so interesting for me to go somewhere completely new. I can’t say I don’t get nervous, but I’m always willing to try it.”

As a part of the 3+1 medical laboratory science major, Fung spent three years on Mount Union’s campus and is now studying at the Cleveland Clinic. Though Vincent is enjoying all he is learning living in Cleveland and studying at the Clinic, he misses Alliance.

“I really miss my friends on campus and my ATO brothers. But I’m so busy it’s hard to get back and see them. I’m going to come back and walk for graduation; I would not miss that,” he said.

Fung packed a lot into his three years on campus. He worked in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for Dawn Adams, was a resident assistant, and worked for the Physical Plant. He was also involved in Association of International Students and Japanese Club.

“I trimmed every tree outside of the HPCC and I was very proud of that,” he said.

It was through his involvement on campus and connection with Adams that he found out about the Student Emergency Fund when he was having trouble paying his student account.



VINCENT FUNG '23  
Medical Laboratory Science Major  
Hong Kong, China

“I was so excited when I learned I received the aid. I would not have applied for it if I was not desperate for help,” he said. “I am so appreciative to those who contributed because it helped me continue my education.”

Fung has many fond memories of Mount Union as he reflects on his time as a student and is looking forward to working in a medical lab immediately following graduation in the spring.

“In the beginning, Mount Union was just a university, but it eventually became my home,” said Fung. “As an international student, the friends I’ve made at Mount, and the support I have from my professors, from the Student Emergency Fund is all just amazing. There’s a small group of international students on campus, but Mount Union works hard to include us and make us feel part of the University. I’m so thankful for that.”

**Brian Farnham '14** won the 59<sup>th</sup> SCCA National Championship Runoffs taking place September 24 – October 2 at Virginia International Raceway.



**Rachel Brumenschenkel '18** and **Andy Fields '17** were married on June 4, 2022, in Mansfield, Ohio. Members of their party included **Morgan Brumenschenkel '18**, **Jess Calhoun '18**, **Riley McMahon '16**, **Jake O'Neal '16**, **Dan Coffey '16**, **Andrew Steidl '18**, and **Steven Phipps '18**. The couple resides in Wauconda, Illinois.



**Megan Stacey '12** and **Micah Goldfarb** were married on June 26, 2022 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The wedding party included alumnae **Elizabeth Juran '13** and **Kelly (Emery '12) Buechner**. The couple resides in New York, New York.



**Chelsey (Bruce '14) Kirkland** graduated with a Ph.D. in public health from Kent State University's College of Public Health. She works as a researcher within the Center for Public Health Systems in the School of Public Health at University of Minnesota.

**Rebekah (Davis '16)** and **Jesse Wissler** announce the birth of a daughter, **Phoebe Violet**, on May 23, 2022.



## Deaths

### 1940s

**Roy Estep '49** of Canton, Ohio passed away on August 13, 2022.

**William Gebhart '48** of Santa Barbara, California passed away on July 7, 2022.

**Robert Hively '43** of Akron, Ohio passed away on June 24, 2022.

**Betty Lou (Baker '48) Honaker** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on July 28, 2022.

**Phyllis (Fixler '46) Krabill** of Akron, Ohio passed away on August 24, 2022.

**Ellen Wulf '47** of Hilliard, Ohio passed away on September 11, 2022.

### 1950s

**Richard Bucarion '57** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on July 29, 2022.

**Elinor Currie '55** of Sun City Center, Florida passed away on June 21, 2022.

**Gary Greenamyer '59** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on May 11, 2022.

**Nancy (Sampson '50) Hank** of Bluffton, South Carolina passed away on August 4, 2022.

**Popey (Antoney '58) Kleon** of Canton, Ohio passed away on May 19, 2022.

**Wayne Laughlin '53** of Salem, Ohio passed away on August 23, 2022.

**Richard Masters '52** of Crestwood, Kentucky passed away on August 28, 2022.

**Nancy (Long '59) Patterson** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on August 22, 2022.

**Richard Raebel '52** of Canton, Georgia passed away on September 12, 2022.

**Mary (Guerra '52) Willmot** of Peru, Illinois passed away on May 13, 2022.

**Beverly (Gerber '50) Wilson** of Sun City Center, Florida and Short Gap, West Virginia, passed away on July 14, 2022. She is survived by husband **Mac Wilson '50** and four children, including **Kathy (Wilson '77) McNeil** and her husband **Gary McNeil '77**.

### 1960s

**Beth Boyer '69** of Dayton, Ohio passed away on June 6, 2022.

**John Capper '62** of Mount Vernon, Ohio passed away on May 21, 2022.

**Anne (Shilts '61) Crowl** of Canton, Ohio passed away on August 26, 2022.

**Paul Dustman '61** of Lisbon, Ohio passed away on May 7, 2022.

**Lawrence Gross '66** of New Kensington, Pennsylvania passed away on June 21, 2022.

**James Howenstine '66** of Jupiter, Florida passed away on September 17, 2022.

**Eric Johnson '67** of Fitchburg, Wisconsin passed away on May 29, 2022.

**David Livingston '63** of Aurora, Ohio passed away on September 22, 2022.

**John Martin '69** of Chardon, Ohio passed away on May 15, 2022.

**Ann (White '63) McIntosh** of Bloomington, Indiana passed away on August 19, 2022.

**Leslie "Les" Peine '67** of Sebring, Ohio passed away on August 10, 2022.

**Karen (Lampe '64) Quick** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on October 15, 2022.

**Karen Robinson '66** of Avon, Ohio passed away on June 9, 2022.



**Stephen Sivulich '62** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away on April 24, 2022.

**Allen Slagle '62** of Canfield, Ohio passed away on August 12, 2022.

**Ronald Smith '64** of Wellsville, Ohio passed away on October 11, 2022.

**Mary Wick '65** of Warren, Ohio passed away on June 26, 2022.

## 1970s

**Jack Chapple '75** of Sanibel, Florida passed away on June 20, 2022.

**Roger Crowell '72** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on September 28, 2022.

**William Gollnitz '73** of Sheffield Village, Ohio passed away on May 2, 2022.

**Kenneth Stanley '73** of Montville, Ohio passed away on June 21, 2022.

## 1980s

**Scott Linhart '85** of Upper Sandusky, Ohio passed away on August 13, 2022.

## 2000s

**Benjamin Taylor '03** of Travelers Rest, South Carolina passed away August 8, 2022.

## Friends

Edward Johnson of North Canton, Ohio passed away on May 8, 2022. He attended in the late 1950s.

James Nichols of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on August 19, 2022. He attended in the mid-1950s.

Galen Monroe Oakes, Sr. of Jackson Township, Ohio passed away on July 18, 2022. He attended in the mid-1950s.

George Salsberry of Walterboro, South Carolina passed away on April 16, 2022. He was the spouse of **Linda (Couts '81) Salsberry**. For decades, both were reporters for The Alliance Review and their work included covering Mount Union.

Joanne (Princic) Schindelar of Dublin, Ohio passed away on June 9, 2022. She attended in the early 1970s.

John Sera of Norwood, Massachusetts passed away on May 5, 2022. He attended in the mid-1960s.

Douglass Tyla of Danbury, Connecticut passed away on October 17, 2022. He attended in the mid-1990s

John Uhrig of Orlando, Florida passed away on April 30, 2022. He attended in the early 1970s.

Melanie Vien of Alliance, Ohio passed away on May 26, 2022. She attended in the mid-1980s.

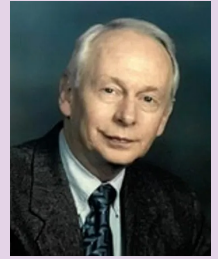
James Walker of Ravenna, Ohio passed away on July 11, 2022. He attended in the mid-1970s.

Steven Williams of Minerva, Ohio passed away on July 21, 2022. He attended in the mid-1980s.

## Mount Union Employees

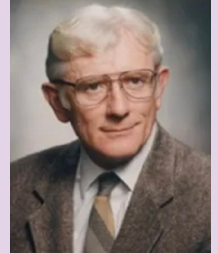
### Dr. Walter Dillon

**Dr. Walter Dillon** of Medina, Ohio passed away on August 28, 2022. He was a mathematics professor before retiring.



### Dr. Paul Froman

**Dr. Paul Froman** of Lancaster, Ohio passed away on September 17, 2022. He taught religion and German and was the chaplain for many years.



### James "Jimmy" Gaurrich

**James "Jimmy" Gaurrich** of Ravenna, Ohio passed away on May 9, 2022. He was a scratch baker in AVI.

### Anna Hall

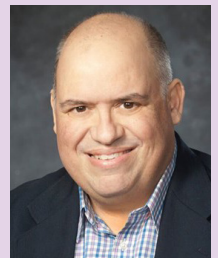
**Anna Hall** of Sebring, Ohio passed away on August 11, 2022. She worked in the Snack Bar.

### Erick Hendrickson

**Erick Hendrickson** of Louisville, Ohio passed away on October 5, 2022. He was a mathematics instructor.

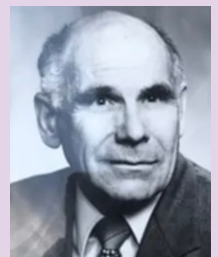
### Leonard "Lenny" Reich

**Leonard "Lenny" Reich** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on October 17, 2022. He was the assistant to the athletic director and sports information director for 14 years.



### Dr. Shea Zellweger

**Dr. Shea Zellweger**, of Alliance, Ohio passed away on August 7, 2022. He was the former chair of the Department of Psychology at Mount Union from 1969 to 1993.



Submit your Class Notes information at  
[mountunion.edu/alumni](http://mountunion.edu/alumni).

## 2023 RACHEL BOYCE LANG INTERNATIONAL CHOIR TOUR

Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends are welcome to join the Office of Alumni Engagement on an exciting 13-day trip to The Netherlands, Belgium, and France in conjunction with the UMU Choir trip May 17-29, 2023!



Visit [mountunion.edu/northern-europe](https://mountunion.edu/northern-europe) to learn more.

MOUNT  UNION

# Women

The Mount Union Women organization has been supporting the education of women at Mount Union since 1933. The group raises funds to provide scholarships to deserving students on campus identifying as female.



As a nonprofit organization, Mount Union Women volunteers at the concession stands at home football games and host 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](https://mountunionwomen.org). You can also see what the group is up to by following along on Facebook and Instagram!



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 one another 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!

# VIRGINIA "GINNY" BARTHOLOMEW '95: A LIFE AND LEGACY CELEBRATED

While alumni gathered across campus this past homecoming weekend, Ginny Bartholomew's '95 legacy was celebrated by family, friends, and former classmates in the Giese Center for the Performing Arts.

Trustee Heidi Bartholomew '92, a former classmate of Ginny's (no relation), had envisioned this day for a while. Heidi established a scholarship in her classmate's memory in early 2020 and planned to have an event celebrating the scholarship and her friend's life during homecoming that fall.

"This was something that needed to be done in person," Heidi said. "And if it couldn't be done in person, we were going to wait until it could be."

Two years later, hosted by Heidi and fellow classmates Carrienne (Tingley '92) Tuckley, Laura (Roll '93) McGuinness, and Jim Krapenc '95, friends and family gathered and shared stories of Ginny's dynamic personality. Most described her as magnetic and, above all, kind. After graduation, Ginny went on to become an accomplished actor and director in New York City recognized and awarded for her work on stage and in film.

Associate Professor of Theatre Kevin Kern spoke about the theatre program and introduced the first recipient of the Bartholomew scholarship, theatre major Seth Tackett '25, describing him as a "warm, affable young man."

"Growing up with autism, I found it hard to relate to my peers. With theatre, I felt like I was a proper part of a group," said Tackett. "Mount Union has done that and more for me. It has a lot of resources for those who want to go into anything pertaining to the performing arts. My peers



and instructors have allowed me to grow as a performer and as a person. While I never knew Ginny personally, I can only strive to be as positive of an influence at both Mount Union and in the performing arts."

To make a gift to the Virginia "Ginny" Bartholomew '95 Endowed Scholarship, visit [giving.mountunion.edu/Ginny](https://giving.mountunion.edu/Ginny).

*Distributions from the renewable scholarship support a sophomore, junior, or senior student majoring in theater with at least a 3.0 GPA. The recipient must be in good academic and social standing with the approval of the Office of Student Financial Services and the theatre faculty in accordance with the approved procedures of the University of Mount Union.*

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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For more information on in-person or virtual admission campus visit events, go to [mountunion.edu/visit-campus](https://mountunion.edu/visit-campus)