

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 28th and the men's cross country team placed 31st 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 (*12th 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.

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.

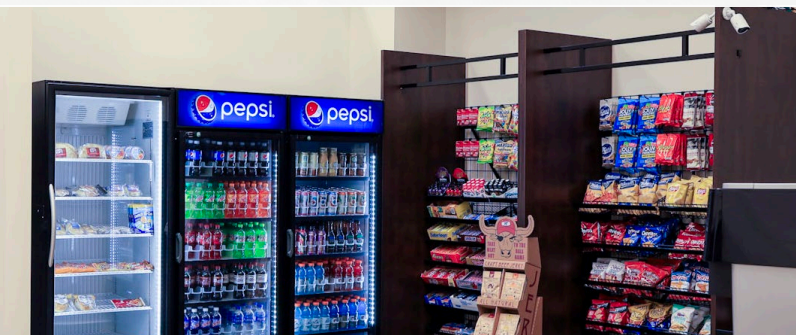
ADDITIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS



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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