



## BOTZMAN INSTALLED AS 13<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF MOUNT UNION

Dr. Thomas J. Botzman was installed as the 13<sup>th</sup> president of Mount Union during a ceremony held in Peterson Field House – a celebration more than a year in the making.

A presidential inauguration is usually held a few months after a new president is hired, but the COVID-19 pandemic pushed back the event. Thus, Botzman was installed as president 15 months after he took the helm in July of 2020.

During the ceremony, the administration of the Oath of Office and investiture of the Seal of Office were led by Board of Trustees Chair Matt Darrah '84 and former Mount Union

presidents Dr. Harold M. Kolenbrander, Dr. John L. Ewing, Jr., Dr. Richard F. Giese, and Dr. W. Richard Merriman, Jr.

*"I thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to move through a most unusual and challenging time for this gently worn, and not all that new, university president."*

**- President Tom Botzman**

## M CLUB HALL OF FAME INDUCTS 21 NEW MEMBERS AS PART OF CLASSES OF 2020, 2021

The Mount Union M Club Hall of Fame inducted its classes of 2020 and 2021 on October 15-16. The new members were recognized during halftime of the October 16 football game.

Pictured right at the halftime announcement were: (front, l-r) Rick Mulinix '02, Brian Holford '01, JR Richner '94, Jason Perkins '01, Jesse Pearson '01, Don Montgomery '77; (back, l-r) Karen Tait (daughter of the late Joe Tait), Harry Paidas '74, Bruce Hixon '70, Bill Eagle '97, Gary Fisher '66, Ken Smith Jr. '82, Willie Jofferion '79, Dan Buckel '76, and Kathie Lavery.

Not pictured were John Homon, Deanne Knoblauch, Nick Sirianni '03, Jeff Wojtowicz '84, the late Dan Gorman, and the late Mike Hemminger '69.





## MOUNT UNION ONCE AGAIN IN THE SPOTLIGHT WITH NATIONAL RANKINGS

The University was once again 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

- #10 among Midwest Regional Colleges
- #17 Best Value among Midwest Regional Colleges
- Top performer in Social Mobility

### Washington Monthly

- #29 in the Nation
- Best Bang for the Buck
- Best Colleges for Student Voting

### College Factual

- Best Master's Degree Schools
- Top 15% Nationally for Quality
- Computer Science #2 in Ohio for Quality
- Allied Health #5 in Ohio for Quality
- National Security and Foreign Intelligence Analysis/  
Criminal Justice #9 in Ohio for Quality

### Niche

- Top 100 Best Colleges for Sport Management in America
- Best College Campuses #9 in Ohio
- Best Colleges for Student Athletes #9 in Ohio

### Arbor Day Foundation

- Tree Campus USA

## NEW MINOR IN DATA SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS ANNOUNCED

Mount Union's Board of Trustees recently approved the addition of a minor in data science and analytics to its academic offerings.

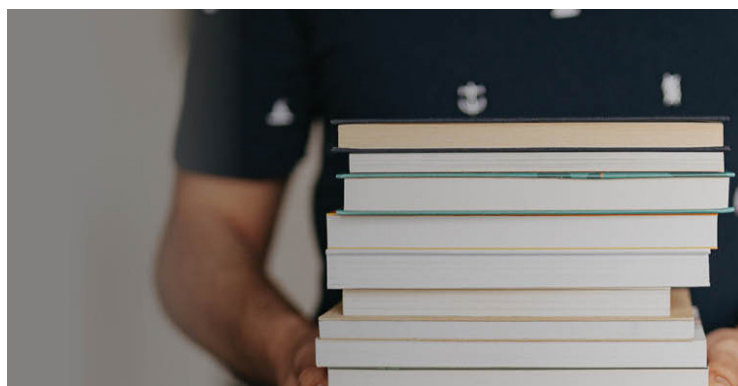
The new program reflects the increased demand for data scientists across a variety of disciplines. According to LinkedIn's 2020 Emerging Jobs Report, "data science is a field that is seeing continued growth on a tremendous scale." The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the overall career growth in data related fields to be between 16-31% through 2028.



## COST OF STUDENT TEXTBOOKS COVERED AS PART OF NEW PROGRAM

The University of Mount Union is proud to partner with Barnes & Noble College (BNC) on the Raider Ready program. This program addresses equitable access and affordability across all courses at the institution and ensures that undergraduate students will have all their materials for the semester available on or before the first day of class.

The program provides all required textbooks, lab manuals, access codes, and digital textbook versions to students. Mount Union will be covering the cost of renting textbooks so that eligible students will receive them for free. The program will be launched for the 2022-2023 academic year, beginning in the 2022 Fall Semester.



With the end of 2021 comes the conclusion of our five-year Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives campaign. As of December 14, 2021 more than **\$49.3 million** has been raised in support of our main funding priorities: scholarship opportunities, facility enhancements, innovation in curriculum, and The Mount Union Fund.

Thank you to those of you that have generously supported the campaign. For those of you still looking to make a difference, visit [giving.mountunion.edu](http://giving.mountunion.edu) to make your gift today. You can also endow your own scholarship using the three steps at the right. Contact Logan Aguiniga, director of planned giving, at [aguinilo@mountunion.edu](mailto:aguinilo@mountunion.edu) to learn more.

## DARRAH '84 CREATES NEW PATHWAYS WITH ALMA MATER SCHOLARSHIP

Mount Union Board of Trustees Chair Matt Darrah '84 has an answer to some of the challenges facing affordability in higher education and is leading the charge to address them, calling on his peers to follow suit.

This year, Matt created the Alma Mater Scholarship to help with both recruitment of new students and the ability of those families to afford an exceptional Mount Union education. The endowed scholarship will benefit incoming first-year Mount Union students hailing from his high school alma mater of Kent Roosevelt.

Born and raised in Kent, Ohio, Darrah's grandfather, William C. Darrah '27, graduated from Mount Union and went on to become the principal of Kent Roosevelt. Matt's father, William R. Darrah, was excited to attend Mount Union, but the eldest Darrah passed away after William R.'s first semester, so he couldn't afford to stay. But that didn't keep Matt away from Mount Union, as his father brought him to Purple Raider football games throughout his life.

"Mount was always the place I wanted to go, but probably wouldn't be able to

afford," said Matt. "When I looked at my options, I decided for the heck of it to apply to Mount Union."

Though Matt never met his grandfather, he has always felt connected to him through their shared Mount Union experience.

"My life would be completely different if not for Mount Union. The well-roundedness of the education, the need to be active and participatory in your academics and extracurriculars, the intimacy on campus — these are things that simply would not have happened as deeply as they did for me at Mount Union," Matt said.

Matt began giving back to Mount Union shortly after graduating. He says giving back is easy and serving on the Board of Trustees is not so easy, but both are very fulfilling.

"I know there are kids at Mount who are in the same spot I was," he said. "Maybe they didn't think they could go to Mount. Maybe they didn't understand what it was about, and now they are being ignited by it — feeling more powerful and dreaming of their potential."



Shortly after endowing his own Alma Mater Scholarship, Matt challenged his fellow board members to create the same opportunity. Since his call to action, many of his peers have risen to the challenge, including board members and spouses John '71 and Connie (Snodde '70) Flynn, Edward Kolesar '84, Mike '87 and Diane Jarrett, Rick '85 and Polly (Chapman '85) Marabito, and President Tom and Vanessa Botzman.

As Matt sees it, "It's an opportunity to help two institutions that are near and dear to one's heart."

# Learn more about the Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives Campaign at [mountunion.edu/inspire](http://mountunion.edu/inspire)

1

## ESTABLISH YOUR GIFT AMOUNT

The minimum gift for an endowed scholarship is \$25,000. This amount can be paid over time if this is more comfortable for you (example: \$5,000 a year over 5 years).

2

## DESCRIBE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

Do you want to memorialize a former classmate or family member in the scholarship name? Who do you want to benefit from your scholarship? An art major? A scientist? An first-year student hailing from your high school alma mater? The options are limitless.

3

## TRANSFORM A STUDENT'S LIFE

Once the full amount is received, the fund must sit for one year to grow before it is awarded. Every year afterward, you will receive a financial report on your scholarship including your scholarship recipient(s) name(s). Because the fund is endowed, the principal investment is never touched and will live on in perpetuity.

## FINELLI '25 REALIZES HER MOUNT UNION DREAM



Gabriella Finelli '25 first visited campus with her proud Purple Raider stepfather, Matt Carpenter '95, during her freshman year of high school.

“Mount Union was the first school I ever saw, and it definitely set the standard for me,” she said.

Finelli looked at other schools, but none lived up to the Mount Union standard. It was the perfect distance

from her home in Kent, and she loved the small class sizes.

“I knew from the start that I didn’t want to go to a big school,” she said. “I wanted to have professors that I knew and to see familiar faces all around campus.”

Like many prospective students, Finelli applied for a long list of scholarships to help ease the cost of tuition. She was thrilled to learn she qualified for the Darrah Family Scholarship and was even more excited when she learned she received the aid.

“I had never heard of a scholarship like this one. It feels so special to be able to represent Kent Roosevelt at Mount Union,” she said. “I’m taking on much of the financial burden of college, but my parents are also helping. I was happy to be able to lessen that burden for myself and for them.”

Finelli recently completed her first semester as a biology major and member of Alpha Delta Pi.

“I’m so happy I decided to join sorority life,” she said. “I love my classes, but

I also love all the things I’ve learned outside of the classroom.”

Finelli has always known she wants to work in the medical field. She attended Mount Union’s Health Professions Visit Day during which she learned about the physician’s assistant (PA) studies, nursing, and physical therapy programs.

“When I heard about the PA program, I knew it was the perfect fit for me,” she said. “Originally, I wanted to attend PA school elsewhere because it seemed like a good time to explore somewhere new. But since I’ve been at Mount, I’ve been so impressed by our PA program. I hope to be a part of it.”

Without scholarship aid, Finelli’s Mount Union experience would not be possible.

“I’m so appreciative to the Darrah family for their generosity and support,” she said. “There are many resources to take advantage of at Mount Union. I feel so grateful to be at a place where there are so many opportunities to grow and learn.”