

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.