

MOUNT UNION

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

SPRING/SUMMER
2019



MOUNT UNION LEVELS UP

Competitive esports program launched for the next generation of students



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#BeExceptional

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EDITOR

Ryan Smith '14

DESIGNERS

Elyse Gotschall
Ryan Smith '14

CONTRIBUTORS

Mallory Glenn '19
Elyse Gotschall
Allie Lynch '21
Dick Merriman
Ryan Smith '14

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Cockrill's Studio
Juni Foto Photography

EDITORIAL BOARD

Melissa (Smith '98) Gardner
Elyse Gotschall
Gregory King '89
Dick Merriman
Ryan Smith '14
Sherrie Wallace '09
Audra (Lee '04) Youngen

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New academic programs have been added across campus to meet the changing needs of both traditional undergraduates and adult learners.

**“These values
have made our
University great,
and they light
the way for our
future.”**

Dear friends,

Mount Union’s DNA, since the time of its founding, has been about “and” not “or,” about making choices that expand our reach and impact rather than making confining and limiting decisions. That DNA is expressing itself today through the addition of new academic programs that are delivered in new ways to both traditional undergraduate students and to adult learners.

This summer, the University launched a new M.Ed. degree with four concentrations that are offered fully online. The concentrations are designed to serve teachers, athletic coaches, and future school leaders who need a part-time study path to earning a graduate degree while they are employed. Our new accelerated BSN program will serve adults who have earned a bachelor’s degree and now want to retool for careers in nursing.

Intensive studies and clinical experiences will allow them to earn their degrees in as little as 15 months.

New programs in risk management and insurance and engineering have expanded our offerings for undergraduates on our campus. A robust catalog of summer undergraduate courses that are being offered online is giving our continuing students a way to work and earn money for college in the summer while earning credits and shortening their time to graduation.

“And” not “or,” openness to change, and a commitment to inclusion are all hallmarks of Mount Union’s approach to education. These values have made our University great, and they light the way for our future.

Thanks for all you do for Mount Union!

Best regards,

Dick Merriman
President, University of Mount Union





HLC APPROVES FOUR CONCENTRATIONS FOR ONLINE M.ED. PROGRAM

The University of Mount Union is pleased to announce that the Institutional Actions Committee of the Higher Learning Commission has granted approval of a fully-online Master of Education (M.Ed.) program with concentrations in athletic coaching, curriculum and instruction, educational leadership, and Ohio principal licensure.

Mount Union is now accepting applications for the program's August 2019, January 2020, and May 2020 starts. Mount Union alumni receive a five percent discount off of the program's tuition.

Learn more about these concentrations and the benefits of the program on page 14.

PT PROGRAM GRADUATES FIRST COHORT, EARNS CAPTE ACCREDITATION

Mount Union is proud to announce that its Doctor of Physical Therapy program has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

According to its website, CAPTE is the only accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education to accredit entry-level physical therapy programs. The accreditation comes as a result of several site visits that assessed the educational quality in the following areas: students, faculty,

curriculum, clinical education sites, policies and procedures, resources, administration, assessment, and outcomes.

“This accreditation is the result of countless hours of faculty and staff dedication,” said Dr. Robert Frampton, associate professor, chair, and program director of physical therapy. “The journey began in January of 2014; I have been blessed to work with a talented, devoted team of professionals focused on student success and creating a one-of-a-kind program in physical therapy education.”



Members of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2019 are (l-r): Row 1 — Dr. Robert Frampton, director of the Physical Therapy Program, Cameron Ressel, Emily Bednar, Michelle Cipponeri, Kristen Bader, Gianni Pierro; Row 2 — Lauren Morrow, Sarah Alflen, Kristen Fouts, Jamie Sobczak, Lizabeth Gaut, McKayla Linz, Jenna Craft; Row 3 — Sobhit Shah, Thomas Walker, Leigh Alexander, Alyssa Fenn, Sam Antonacci, Jonathan Gliebe, Jake Wietholder; Row 4 — Ivan Haggins II, Bianna Blohm, Nate Kopchek, Riley Theiss, Justin Hideg, Matt Goldsberry, Eric Meehan, and Patrick Gorby.

THREE-COLLEGE STRUCTURE AND FOUNDING DEANS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED

The College of Applied and Social Sciences, College of Arts and Humanities, and College of Natural and Health Sciences have been implemented now that the three new deans have arrived on campus.

Dr. Kristine Still, former associate dean for student services and external relations in the College of Education and Human Services at Cleveland State University (CSU), is the founding dean of the College of Applied and Social Sciences.

In her role at CSU, Still ran the College's Advising Office as well as the Office of Field Services. Additionally, she directed all the College's external reporting efforts, scholarship, recruitment, and retention initiatives.

Dr. Heather Duda, formerly the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College, has been named the founding dean for the College of Arts and Humanities.

Duda began her tenure at Rio Grande in 2007 as a faculty member in its English program. She has taught a variety of courses in composition, film, and literature. Her first publication was the book titled "The Monster Hunter in Modern Popular Culture," and at the 2018 Midwest Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference, she presented "Saying It All with a Look (and a Voiceover): Adapting the Internal Monologue in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Alias Grace*."

Dr. Sandra Madar has been named the founding dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences. She was professor of biology and biomedical humanities, and the director of strategic academic initiatives at Hiram College.

Madar co-founded Hiram's signature biomedical humanities major, the first undergraduate major of its kind in the U.S., which remains one of the College's five largest academic programs. At Hiram, she also served as associate academic dean and interim vice president and academic dean and had oversight of Hiram's Centers of Distinction.



Dr. Kristine Still
College of Applied
and Social Sciences

B.S., The University of Akron
M.A., Walsh University
Ph.D., The University of Akron



Dr. Heather Duda
College of Arts
and Humanities

B.A., Lycoming College
M.A., University of Maryland
Ph.D., Indiana University of
Pennsylvania



Dr. Sandra Madar
College of Natural
and Health Sciences

B.S., University of Michigan
Ph.D., Kent State University at
NEOMED



VIRTUAL TOUR LAUNCHED

Mount Union is pleased to announce the launch of its virtual tour, built in partnership with YouVisit, that creates a hands-on approach to traditional campus visits. Mount Union's tour offers a simulation of campus featuring a variety of media, including still photography, 360-degree panoramas, video, text, narration, and more.

This virtual tour not only better allows the institution to display the beauty of campus and quality of facilities, but it gives viewers a chance to see Mount Union and experience it regardless of their geographical location. The tour also offers written and audio translations in Arabic, Spanish, and Japanese.

Experience the tour
at: [mountunion.edu/
#virtualtour](http://mountunion.edu/#virtualtour)

LINDAJEAN HELLER WESTERN NAMED NEW VP FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Mount Union has named Lindajeane Heller Western as its new vice president for enrollment management.

Western comes to Mount Union from Hiram College, where she was vice president for enrollment for more than four years. Prior to that, she served for three years as vice president for marketing and enrollment for Western Governors University. At both institutions, Western led efforts that resulted in significant enrollment growth.

"I am happy to be home in Northeast Ohio, joining the legendary Purple Raiders, and am honored to be chosen to serve with a community of faculty,

staff, and trustees so focused on delivering a high-quality, student-focused education," Western said.

Her 20-year career in higher education also included administrative roles at Kent State University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Northern Arizona University.

A member of the United States Marine Corps on active duty for 15 years, Western earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from The Ohio State University in 1980 and a Master of Arts in organizational management from the University of Phoenix in 2000.



"Lindajeane brings considerable senior-level experience in enrollment management with both traditional-age undergraduate students and with graduate students and adult learners whose instruction is delivered face-to-face and online."

Dick Merriman
President

LIZ JONES '19, SPENCER WHYTE '19 NAMED 2019 OUTSTANDING SENIORS



Mount Union is proud to announce that Liz Jones '19, a human development and family science and Spanish double major of Medina, Ohio, and Spencer Whyte '19, a history and political science double major of Broadview Heights, Ohio, were named its 2019 Outstanding Senior Woman and Man.

Other nominees for Outstanding Senior Woman included Brianna Boehlke '19, a history major of Uniontown, Ohio; Leah Custer '19, a nursing major of Lancaster, Ohio; Jessica Kulas '19, a psychology major of Willoughby, Ohio, and Abigail Matsushima '19, an exercise science major of Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Other nominees for Outstanding Senior Man included William Clay '19, a chemistry major of Westlake, Ohio; Tyler Finkenthal '19, an exercise science major of Aurora, Ohio; Jason Hadley '19, a nursing major of Napoleon, Ohio, and Louis Marich '19, a psychology major of Seven Hills, Ohio.

KNEPP NAMED 2019 GREAT TEACHER

Dr. Michael Knepp, associate professor and chair of the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Human Development, was named the 2019 Great Teacher.

A member of the Mount Union faculty since 2010, Knepp earned a Bachelor of Science degree in neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a Master of Science and Ph.D. in developmental and biological psychology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

One student nominator said, "I love Dr. Knepp's teaching style because it allows me to apply my learning to real-life situations, and I have enjoyed every class I have taken from him. I want to nominate him not just for being an amazing teacher, but also for being the best mentor I have ever had."



GRADUATES CELEBRATED, SCHULER '96 DELIGHTS AT 173RD COMMENCEMENT

Approximately 526 graduate and undergraduate students participated in the 173rd Commencement Ceremony.

Gretchen Schuler '96, vice president for insurance and risk management at Invacare, was the speaker for the afternoon. Her speech was titled "The Roads You Travel" and was reflective of her own journey at Mount Union.

"When I was in college, the road I started on is definitely not the road on which I ended," Schuler said. "I was what you would call a 'hot mess.' But ultimately, I'm here speaking to you today.

"To be successful, you need to have a sense of humor," Schuler added. "Take what you do seriously, but do not take yourself too seriously."

She told the graduates that their careers would not always be "double rainbows and unicorns," and that they would encounter adversity at times. "How you handle mistakes and disappointments is what defines you," she concluded.



ATWOOD'S STORYTELLING ENTERTAINS SCHOOLER LECTURE CROWD



During a night that featured a tonal balance of humorous, dry wit and certain harsh realities brought forth by society and her literary works, author Margaret Atwood spoke to a room of nearly 2,500 Mount Union students, alumni, and members of the Alliance and surrounding communities at the 2019 Schooler Lecture.

Featuring several sound bites and insightful commentary, the Toronto, Canada native reflected on her personal story and how it impacted two of her most popular works — “Oryx and Crake” and “The Handmaid’s Tale.”

Despite questions from students during the invitation-only question and answer session prior to the lecture and from those in the audience at the event, Atwood would not divulge any spoilers for her upcoming sequel to “The Handmaid’s Tale,” “The Testaments,” due this fall.

A final question from a student writer sought input from Atwood, and the speaker ended the night with advice that can be translated across all media.

“Fail. Fail harder. It’s how you learn.”

POLITICAL STRATEGISTS BRAZILE, NAVARRO SLATED FOR 2020 SCHOOLER LECTURE

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, Mount Union is hosting renowned political strategists Donna Brazile and Ana Navarro as its 2020 Schooler Lecturers on April 2, 2020.

Brazile is the former interim Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), a current Fox News contributor, and the author of the New York Times bestseller “Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-Ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House” and the 2004 best-selling memoir “Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics.” She is a co-author of the book entitled “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics,” which received an NAACP Image Award.

In 2013, Brazile was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. She is also the proud recipient of more than 10 honorary doctorate degrees from major colleges and universities, including her alma mater Louisiana State University. In October 2017, Brazile was the recipient of the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal, Harvard’s highest honor in African American studies.



Navarro is a well-known Republican strategist, political analyst for CNN, CNN en Español, Telemundo, and co-host of ABC’s “The View.” The Miami New Times named her a “Republican power-consultant,” and the Tampa Bay Times called her “a sought-after voice in Republican politics and an adviser for any presidential hopeful.”

Navarro most recently served as the national Hispanic co-chair for Governor Jon Huntsman’s 2012 campaign and the national co-chair of John McCain’s Hispanic Advisory Council in 2008, where she was also the national surrogate for the McCain 2008 campaign.

SPORT BUSINESS, NURSING PROGRAMS NAMED BEST IN STATE BY RANKING AGENCIES

Mount Union's Bachelor of Arts degree in sport business was recently ranked as the best degree of its kind in Ohio and 10th in the nation according to Bachelor's Degree Center (BDC).

BDC's methodology for its ranking of the "25 Best Bachelor's in Sports Management Degree Programs for 2019" is rooted in programs that are accredited by the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation. From there, institutions were ranked based on reputation, cost, return on investment, graduation rate, and employment rate.

"The success of the sport business program is a team effort of all Mount Union personnel, students, alumni, and the many working professionals who have visited with our students in the classroom, at conferences, and at their facilities," said Dr. Jim Thoma, professor of sport business.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at Mount Union was ranked at the top of RegisteredNursing.org's list of Best Nursing Schools in Ohio for 2019.

The site based its results on students' passage rate of the state licensing test, the NCLEX-RN. Mount Union has achieved a 100 percent passage rate on the test in back-to-back years and is the only institution of the 92 analyzed in the ranking to achieve such an accomplishment.

Because of the success of the traditional BSN program, Mount Union launched a second degree accelerated BSN program that enrolled its first class in May.

Read more about the accelerated BSN program on page 17.



WRESTLER JAMES '21 IS NATIONAL CHAMPION

Mount Union sophomore Jordin James '21, an exercise science major of Bedford, Ohio, won the 133-pound title, while the Purple Raiders placed fifth as a team at the 2019 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships.

Mount Union tallied 58.5 points, which was just one point behind fourth place Ithaca (NY), and a spot on the podium. The fifth place finish was the Raiders highest finish and sixth top-10 finish of all-time.

Jordin posted a 9-7 win over Ben Vosters of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to become the program's third-ever individual national champion, joining his brother Jairod James '20 at 174 pounds in 2018 and Dan Bobish '92 at heavyweight in 1992.

Antwon Pugh '22, a criminal justice and international affairs and diplomacy double major of Fairlawn, Ohio, and Jairod both finished as runner-ups in their respective brackets.



MOUNT UNION'S COLUMBARIUM, VICTORIA'S GARDEN, DEDICATED IN HONOR OF VICTORIA ELLEN HAAPT

On Friday, May 17, Rev. Kyle Woodrow and Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker '71 presided over the dedication service of Victoria's Garden.

"We dedicate Victoria's Garden and rejoice in all that it represents, as a place of remembering, of hope, and celebration of life," stated Woodrow.

The Garden includes a columbarium, which will be the permanent resting spot for cremated remains. The columbarium, which holds 40 niches, is a decorative wall of granite, limestone, and red brick to match the existing architecture of the campus. The location of Victoria's Garden is within close proximity of Dewald Chapel and allows for connections with the memorial and meditation services organized by the Office of the Chaplain.

Victoria's Garden was generously provided by former board chair, Fred Haupt '63 and family and friends in honor and memory of his wife, Victoria Ellen Haupt, who passed away on January 13, 2018.

Niches are available to alumni and friends. To learn more about Victoria's Garden, contact Woodrow or the Office of Advancement.



1993 FOOTBALL TEAM CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Members of the 1993 Mount Union Purple Raider football team gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Mount Union's first national championship in football.

Coaches, players, and their families were on hand to discuss the significance of that team and share stories on how the football dynasty was built. Members of the current Mount Union football team were in attendance as well.



A full album of photos from the event can be viewed on the Mount Union Alumni Facebook page at facebook.com/mountunionalumni.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

***MOUNT UNION'S NEW ESPORTS PROGRAM ATTRACTS A NEW
GENERATION OF STUDENTS IN ONE OF THE
WORLD'S RISING COMMUNITIES***

Located at one of the most high-trafficked areas in Alliance, a building that once held prescriptions and grocery items is now home to Mount Union's response to a \$1.4 billion and growing field. Competitive esports is one of the fastest growing communities both across the nation and on myriad college campuses. Mount Union has shown its commitment to making its esports program successful with industry-leading

resources in a space that intends to be an inclusive gaming hub for the Mount Union community.

What is esports?

The competitive esports industry is part of the \$138 billion video game market and features athletes from across the world who play a wide array of games. A far cry from Pong and Space Invaders, the games featured in the most

popular and lucrative tournaments range from sports games to battle arena and even digital fantasy card games like "Hearthstone," which are broadcasted worldwide.

As the field continues its rapid ascent, professional gamers are earning an average salary of \$60,000 each year, with the most prolific face of the industry, Tyler "Ninja" Blevins, making \$500,000



each *month*. Much of this comes from sponsorships and live-streaming, yet game developer Blizzard recently signed a television contract with ESPN to create the College Esports Championship. To some, that may seem surprising. However, a study conducted by Syracuse University estimated that, by 2021, an esports final will have 84 million viewers, which would be more than the World Series, NBA Finals, and Stanley Cup.

More than Video Games

Although the creation of the esports program at Mount Union stems from the industry's rapid rise, Director and Head Coach Derek Spinell is excited to structure the program to be successful while embodying the mission of the institution. An industry veteran who has been an events contractor for Major League Gaming since 2013, Spinell understands what prospective students are seeking.

"I was drawn to this position because it was a program that I could build from the ground up with a very supportive administration," said Spinell. "This is a great opportunity for students who have an interest in this expanding field. Across the country, everybody who is involved in esports is working together to help the continual growth of collegiate esports."



HyperX Cloud II Headset

Zowie BenQ XL2430 144hz Monitor

iBUYPOWER Slate 2 Custom Built Gaming PCs
 - Intel i7 9700k
 - MSI GeForce RTX 2080 8 GB
 - 16 GB RAM
 - Liquid Cooled

Zowie FK1 Mouse

Zowie Celeritas II Keyboard

Top: The Esports Center, located on the corner of State Street and Union Avenue, features more than 40 gaming stations with industry-leading hardware.

Bottom: The Varsity Lounge provides a space for athletes to relax and strategize between matches. It also doubles as a professional meeting space for companies interested in partnership opportunities with the team.



“The team atmosphere of esports involves everybody constantly pushing one another to reach the potential we have; that will definitely help me as I proceed academically.”

**- AJ Hammond '22
Computer Science and Management
Hermitage, PA**



“I am a transfer student coming from a community college to Mount Union. In transferring, I have had a lot of doors open up to me that would otherwise not be available,” said Jordan Wilson '21, a criminal justice and psychology double major of Greenfield, Ohio. “This is just one of the many great ones.”

Mount Union will offer scholarships for qualified students in its esports program when it officially launches in fall of 2019. The games featured at the launch of the program will be “League of Legends,” “Overwatch,” and “Rocket League.” Although scholarships for playing these games competitively will be a selling point for many prospective students, Spinell knows academics and career preparation remain focal points of the Mount Union student experience.

“Esports student athletes learn many transferable skills similar to those who play other collegiate team sports,” Spinell said. “In order to succeed, these players need to have skills in interpersonal communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and time management to balance their studies and practices.”

“Personally, I cannot wait to play on a stage again with great teammates and

win some championships,” said AJ Hammond '22, a computer science and management double major of Hermitage, Pennsylvania. “Some of my greatest memories in my life are the ones where I was on stage competing, laughing, and, most importantly, winning with my team.”

Spinell plans to utilize Mount Union’s Starfish retention software so he can make sure athletes in the program are excelling outside of team activities. Students on the esports team will be required to hold membership in at least one other campus organization and volunteer in campus community-service initiatives.

Upon seeing models for success while traveling to peer institutions and national conferences, Spinell also hopes to work with academic programs to strengthen the interdisciplinary connection between academics and esports. One of his goals is to work with the exercise science program to develop a training regimen for the esports team focusing on spine health, reaction time, and hand-eye coordination.

“I want these athletes to be engaged members of the campus community

while getting the chance to be part of something bigger than themselves,” Spinell said.

New Hub of Campus

With the Hoover-Price Campus Center on the opposite end of campus, Spinell hopes the building that held a once-downtrodden Family Dollar can become a shared space for everyone at Mount Union.

The facility features more than 40 gaming stations and a broadcast projection that are open to the campus community, as well as a lounge for players on the team.

Those who are not interested in playing competitively are still welcome to utilize the space, as video games are meant to be enjoyable at their core. Spinell envisions the area will be a place where otherwise introverted students can feel comfortable opening up and being socially engaged.

“The people you meet and interact with create a sense of camaraderie,” Spinell said. “It really is awesome to see people come out of their shell through something you have a hand in creating.”

MEETING DEMAND

Mount Union's new academic offerings for contemporary students

The continual development of academic programs is at the very core of Mount Union's ability to prepare students for success. Efforts to engage an increasing number of adult learners, both graduate students and those seeking new career opportunities in growing fields, have become increasingly important as a means of battling declining demographics of traditional undergraduate students in the region. All the while, it's critical that the institution continue to offer emerging and relevant disciplines for traditional undergraduate students, a population that the institution has diligently served for the vast majority of its history. New offerings, including a fully-online Master of Education degree with four distinct concentrations, an undergraduate major in the growing industry of risk management and insurance, and an accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing degree for students who previously earned a bachelor's degree in an unrelated field, seek to diversify Mount Union's student body in meaningful ways.

MASTER OF EDUCATION

The Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree at the University of Mount Union, with tracks in athletic coaching, curriculum and instruction, and educational leadership, and Ohio principal licensure combines a relevant, robust, and engaging curriculum with the flexibility and convenience required of busy adults. Rooted in a rich institutional history of educator preparation and athletic coaching leadership, these quality online programs feature a high level of faculty-student collaboration and exposure to diverse approaches to leadership policy and practice.

Mount Union initially launched its online educational leadership program in 2009 as a Master of Arts degree, but revised the program to transition to the M.Ed. degree, a more recognizable practitioner's degree, with four concentrations. The revised degree will continue to serve the expanding needs of P-12 educators while remaining committed to quality, online education.

"These graduate program offerings expand the institution's offerings in the discipline to better meet the emerging needs of today's teachers," said Dr. Jeffrey Breese, vice president for academic affairs.

With flexibility and convenience at the core, the fully-online degree is structured for busy adults who want to take the next step in their careers. The institution understands and appreciates the struggle involved in balancing home, work, and studies.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The educational leadership concentration is designed for any teacher who is seeking career advancement and growth. The success of Mount Union's Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accredited undergraduate teacher preparation program made the M.Ed., and all four concentra-

tions, the next logical step in Mount Union's preparation of successful educational leaders.

With the concentration in educational leadership, teachers will be prepared for success in roles such as a program administrator, teacher leader, distance learning coordinator, or district administrator. The degree can also lead to principalship in some private schools that do not require licensure for school leaders.

OHIO PRINCIPAL LICENSURE

Similar to the educational leadership concentration in much of its curriculum, the Ohio principal licensure concentration is intended for educational professionals working in Ohio who hope to lead their schools and districts.

Upon earning a M.Ed. degree from the University, graduates will have met Ohio's master's degree and principal preparation program requirements. After successfully completing the Ohio Assessment for Educators licensure exam, and having two years of successful teaching experience with students of the ages and grade levels for which the principal license is sought, they will earn the Ohio principal licensure.

ATHLETIC COACHING

The concentration in athletic coaching leverages the institution's leadership in sports-related fields, including a major in sport business and a minor in coaching, as well as the institu-

tion's ongoing success in intercollegiate athletics, coupled with its track record for producing top-notch coaches at all levels of organized athletics.

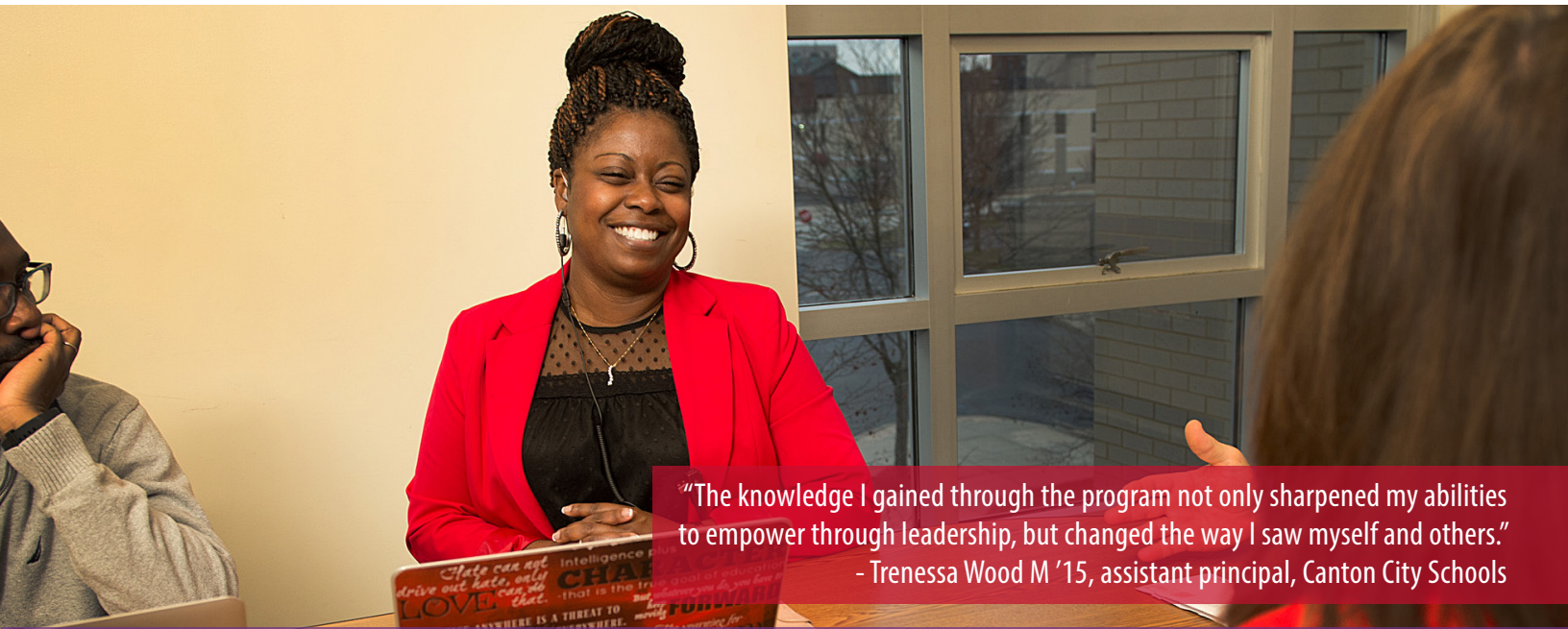
The M.Ed. in athletic coaching includes courses on training and conditioning, nutrition, skill development, and the psychology of coaching. It also prepares coaches to excel as leaders within their schools by focusing on organizational culture, community context, supervision and professional development, and technology. The program is geared toward preparing professionals pursuing a coaching career at any level.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

As the P-12 educational landscape continually demands innovation and assessment as a result of its ever-changing nature, the curriculum and instruction concentration was initiated as part of the M.Ed. program offerings.

Teachers seeking to make an impact through the further study of pedagogy and development of their skills in the design, delivery, and assessment of lessons, units, and programs may find this concentration is a good fit for their educational goals.

Graduates of the program are better able to cultivate communication skills to evaluate curriculum, assess the quality of instruction, and create professional development opportunities for teachers.



"The knowledge I gained through the program not only sharpened my abilities to empower through leadership, but changed the way I saw myself and others."
- Tressa Wood M '15, assistant principal, Canton City Schools

PROGRAM QUICK FACTS:

All four concentrations are open for enrollment year-round, and interested educators can visit mountunion.edu/umu-med-olp to request more information or apply.

- Fully online, accredited two-year program
- Six-week course structure emphasizing one class at a time
- Start the program in May, August, or January
- 30-credit-hour program (Ohio Principal Licensure is 33)
- Mount Union alumni receive a 5% tuition discount

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE

PROGRAM QUICK FACTS:

More information about the program can be found at mountunion.edu/rmi.

- Part of the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) accredited Department of Business
- Average salary of an insurance professional in the State of Ohio is roughly \$67,000 versus an average salary of \$44,000 in the overall private sector of the state



“If you want a career that involves intellectual and strategic challenges, and brings real value to the firms you’ll be working for, risk management and compliance are great fields for that. I’m very excited Mount Union has this new program to help increase the depth of talent in the field.”

Rob Curry '91

Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer, KeyBank

The risk management and insurance (RMI) program fulfills the demand in Ohio and across the nation for more experienced professionals in the insurance industry.

It is estimated that 29,000 new employees in the field will be needed in the state of Ohio alone by 2024, and nearly half of those will require a bachelor’s degree. Mount Union is the first private institution in Northeast Ohio to offer this in-demand program.

Linda Ruse was named director of the program upon its launch and came to Mount Union with in-depth experience as an insurance professional. Her experience includes 32 years at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, in addition to serving as an adjunct faculty member at Kent State University.

Ruse earned a Bachelor of Arts in communication from John Carroll University and a Juris Doctor degree from The University of Akron School of Law.

The RMI program is part of Mount Union’s Department of Business, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

There are already multiple students who have chosen to major in RMI despite the program’s short time on campus. Read more about what the program offers at mountunion.edu/rmi.

ACCELERATED BSN



One of the most in-demand fields in the country today is nursing. Mount Union recognized this need and established its direct-entry Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in 2013. Though this program was distinctly created with the traditional undergraduate student in mind, many post-baccalaureate adults are seeking a career change to join this rewarding and growing field. Thus, Mount Union launched a second-degree accelerated BSN to meet the needs of these adult learners. The program is open to students who have previously earned a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing-related field.

The program is an understandable addition for Mount Union, stemming from the remarkable success of its undergraduate BSN in its short time on campus. Aside from being ranked as the top nursing program in the State of Ohio by Registered-Nursing.org (see page 5), both of Mount Union's first two classes of graduates achieved a 100 percent passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

The program enrolled its first full class in May, and it did not need much time to do so. Those interested in next May's class can request information at mountunion.edu/accelerated-bsn.

PROGRAM QUICK FACTS:

- Completed in as little as 15 months
- 64-credit-hour program
- Approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
- An in-demand field with 439,000 more nursing jobs across the country by 2024 (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Additional information, including curriculum, cost, and admission requirements, can be found at mountunion.edu/accelerated-bsn.



Barry Myers '19

Fairview Park, Ohio

B.S., Exercise Science

University of Mount Union

BATTLE TESTED

Barry Myers '19 Achieves Research Success Despite Cancer Diagnoses

{BY MALLORY GLENN '19}

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Shortly after the passing of his father when he was around 11 years old, Barry Myers '19 received a coin from his coach with the above Serenity Prayer on it. His coach told him that later, when he was older, the prayer would make more sense. The coin was misplaced for years until Myers, an exercise science major of Fairview Park, Ohio, conveniently found it during another difficult time in his life; he now lives by this motto.

“There are going to be challenges in life, and it’s important to focus your time and energy on the things you can do,” Myers said. “For me, staying positive is what helps me persevere.”

In addition to his father’s passing, Myers has also battled cancer. In September 2014, soon after beginning his freshman year at Mount Union, Myers was diagnosed with stage III testicular metastasized lung cancer.

The doctors determined that the mass on his testicle was cancerous and had spread to his lungs through his lymph nodes. Three days after being diagnosed, Myers had surgery. He also had three rounds of chemotherapy, which occurred over nine weeks with more than 30 treatments. After Myers completed the surgery and all of the chemotherapy treatments, the tumor in his testicles was gone and the size of the tumors in his lungs was significantly reduced.

“I received such overwhelming support during my cancer battle,” Myers said. “And not just from my friends and family; the entire Mount community rallied to support me.”

An unofficial UMU student organization called Raider Relief heard about Myers’ health issues and asked if they could help. Myers told them that the only thing he wanted was to raise awareness. So, the group spearheaded an awareness campaign on campus in which more than 1,000 members of the campus community participated.

“What stood out to me about the campaign was that Barry’s first thought was ‘awareness’ when he was asked what he needed,” said Mark McConnell, associate professor of marketing and previous unofficial advisor of Raider Relief. “That answer reveals humility and a deep concern about other people.”

Myers’ humility and positive attitude are not the only traits that set him apart. He has conducted research under Dr. Lonnie Lowery, associate professor of exercise science, and

“I have never had a student work so hard on a consistent basis and be so dedicated before Barry. I know that Barry will be successful in whatever he does simply because of who he is.”

-Dr. Ron Mendel
Professor, Exercise Science

Dr. Ron Mendel, professor and Chair of the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Nutrition Sciences. Mendel reflected on his experience working with Myers.

“Barry’s work ethic, problem solving, perseverance, and positive attitude set him apart,” said Mendel.

And indeed, Barry has already found a lot of success during his undergraduate career; he has been recognized nationally and internationally for his academic research.

“Barry has assisted me with my research interest centered around sport analytics, which uses information such as heart rate and GPS data to evaluate athlete training loads and readiness to participate in an optimal physical state,” said Lowery. “This is the first time this type of research, as well as Barry’s own research involving caffeine and a non-traditional delivery method (gum) for sport performance, has been completed at Mount Union.”

Myers attended the Mid-West American College of Sports Medicine conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan two times and presented at the 21st European Nutrition and Dietetics Conference in Dublin, Ireland during the summer of 2018. He also moderated the conference and received best poster presentation honors along with a colleague, Jesse White ’18, a biology graduate of Alliance, Ohio. Myers was even accepted to present a poster at the Annual American College of Sports Medicine in Orlando, Florida as a first author.

“It’s phenomenal that Barry has presented his coffee research internationally and even helped moderate that meeting in Dublin,” said Lowery. “Undergrads just don’t do that!”

However, Myers’ academic achievements are not at the forefront of his mind these days. In late 2018, doctors noticed a new mass in the lower lobe of his lung. Since then, he has had scans and blood work done to determine what this

“new” spot is. After six months of monitoring, Myers will go to the pulmonary unit to meet with doctors who will tell him whether the mass is benign or malignant.

“It has been hard to stay focused on research, classes, and my social life with this in the back of my mind,” Myers said. “But I’m staying committed to my routines and remaining positive.”

Upon hearing about Myers, the Regula Scholars, Alpha Phi Omega, Phi Kappa Tau, and some other students created a day of awareness. On Friday, March 29, five years after the first campaign, more than 1,000 Mount Union students, faculty, and staff once again participated in efforts to educate the campus community on testicular cancer.

“It may be embarrassing or even weird to check yourself or to tell your doctor that an issue might be happening, but it is important to conduct self-examinations and to keep up with regular doctor visits and checkups,” Myers said. “Most young people think they are not at risk for cancer, but this is not the case – if you have even the slightest suspicion that something might be wrong, get checked!”

After graduating, Myers plans to save money and continue studying for the GRE before applying to graduate school for exercise physiology. He also intends to continue with his own personal research about caffeinated chewing gum and soccer performance.

“Barry has had every reason to call it quits and choose a different route, but he has not done so,” said Mendel. “He works a ridiculous amount of time off-campus to help pay for school, takes the maximum number of credit-hours per semester, is active in research outside of his studies, and participates in clubs. All of this makes me proud and in awe of what Barry has accomplished through hard work and perseverance. He is an inspiration.”

“Whatever happens, I am ready to fight this. I beat cancer five years ago, and I know I can beat it again.”





Hannah Ferguson '19

Columbus, Ohio

B.A., Early Childhood Education, University of Mount Union

A Legacy Inspired

How Hannah Ferguson '19 is taking lessons from Mount Union and her parents, Judy and Ernie '78, to become a role model for students

{BY ALLIE LYNCHA '21}

Born a Mount Union Raider, Hannah Ferguson '19 has always had her sights on her future.

"I decided to go to Mount because my dad, Ernie Ferguson '78 is an alumnus and has raved about how wonderful Mount Union was all my life," she said. "After coming for a visit and experiencing the community atmosphere of Mount, I fell in love with it myself. I feel very connected to my dad, graduating from the same place as he did. We have always been close, but being able to go through some of the same college experiences as him is special."

Ernie has always been supportive of his daughter and her decisions, and he could not hide the fact that he was thrilled he was going to share similar experiences with her.

"I am elated that my daughter graduated from Mount Union," Ernie said. "While I was a student, I was really involved in

athletics. Being a triple sport athlete in cross-country, wrestling, and track, I was excited for my daughter to continue her basketball career at Mount. Although she retired after two years, her campus involvement and leadership beyond then has surpassed all of my expectations."

Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Hannah grew up as someone who always cared for others. Her love and passion for the world came from the good of her heart but was influenced by the great people around her, making choosing her major a simple task.

"What drove me to choose early childhood education as my major is my desire to be a role model. Growing up, I had a multitude of role models who really played an important role in my development," she said. "The idea that inspires me, both academically and throughout my endeavors, is the effect I could have on young lives. Students soak up everything you do, whether

that be positive or negative. Being a role model means that you're reliable, trustworthy, and a person of value. Having students rely on me to be at my best motivates me to exceed expectations."

With her family by her side, she has been able to face everything head on, knowing she had a support system behind her. Obstacles were taken down one by one, pushing Hannah to be even stronger than she was before.

"One thing I've had to overcome to get to where I am today is being a minority student," Hannah said. "As a person of color, a judgment is placed on you before you even speak. I believe these experiences have motivated me to want to be an educator, and more specifically a positive role model for students of color."

Along with the things she has overcome, leadership positions on campus have also helped prepare Hannah to become a role model and build character.

"On campus, I have been a mentor in the Spectrum Education Center, a Raider Guide, and a sister of Alpha Chi Omega, where I served as vice president of new member education," she said. "All of these leadership positions have helped shape who I am. I believe part of personal development is stepping outside of your comfort zone and pushing yourself to learn more of what you don't know. My involvement on campus provided endless opportunities for me to grow and personally develop."



Judy, Ernie '78, and Hannah Ferguson '19 at the 2018 Alumni Weekend and Homecoming.

Ernie believes that Hannah's involvement has made her a more well-rounded person and is proud that she stepped out of her comfort zone to join Alpha Chi Omega.

"Mount has helped me by instilling in me a great education and a sense of connection within the campus," Ernie continued. "However, I believe Mount Union has brought out a lot in my daughter. Through all of the faculty support,

administrative assistance, and support in reaching her goals, I have seen my daughter flourish. Mount has truly helped me by guiding Hannah to reach her goals and graduate. It's great that Hannah has already found a job as a result."

As far as her future plans, Hannah hopes to continue to inspire young minds in the classroom as an eighth grade intervention specialist with Plain Local Schools in Canton, Ohio. With both her father's experiences and opportunities of her own, she feels as though Mount has prepared her for the world in front of her, and there is no task too large.

"The people I have met and have built personal relationships with will stay with me throughout my life," Hannah said. "I've found my role models, mentors, best friends, and future bridesmaids here. At Mount Union, everyone you meet has a different story; being able to accept those differences and form bonds with one another is something I will treasure forever."



PATH TO THE DRAFT



Dane Brugler '08

Senior NFL Draft Analyst,
The Athletic

B.A., Sport Management, University of Mount Union

The night of the 1999 NFL Draft ushered in the beginning of a new era of professional football in Northeast Ohio. It was also the night during which Dane Brugler '08 discovered a passion he would one day turn into a successful career.

Five years after Tim Couch's name echoed through the rafters of Madison Square Garden, Brugler began his undergraduate career at Mount Union. The Warren, Ohio native chose to attend Mount Union upon learning about the sport management major, in which he would ultimately earn his degree.

"I knew I really wanted to work in sports, and I wanted football evaluation to be a possibility for my career. I felt Mount could be a great place for that," he said. "I was lucky to grow up in a household where I had parents who pushed me to set goals and follow my dreams. Mount helped take me on a path to fulfill these dreams and build a career."

Building a Network

Making comprehensive draft guides in his residence hall was something Brugler initially thought was an "overzealous hobby." Yet this self-described naïve 18-year-old knew that he needed to utilize his time at Mount Union to learn from faculty and make as many connections as possible.

One of those connections was with former Mount Union Sports Information Director Michael De Matteis, who taught a course Brugler took in his sophomore year. After being impressed with

the work he put forth, De Matteis convinced Brugler to work for him in sports information — though if you ask Brugler, there was not much convincing that needed to be done.

De Matteis assigned Brugler to work with the football team, which is a sought-after assignment for any intern at Mount. However, Brugler had the ability to make more industry connections than he ever thought possible with scouts flocking to Alliance to see the burgeoning talent of Pierre Garcón '08.

As Brugler was getting hands-on experience working in sports information, he collaborated with fellow undergraduate interns Brian SanFilippo '06 and Mike Dellosa '07. Both men went on to work with the Frisco Roughriders, a minor league baseball team in Frisco, Texas. Brugler's relationships with them landed him an internship prior to his senior year, and an entry-level job upon graduation.

Enjoying the Journey

Following his time with the Roughriders, Brugler worked for the Final Four and the Super Bowl, which provided him with incredible experiences he reflects on with thoughtful hindsight.

"Maybe in the moment, I didn't appreciate my experiences enough because I was so focused on what I thought was the end goal of scouting," he said. "Though I'm lucky enough to be able to do it today, I'm glad that I was able to have a more realistic picture of what the true road to success is and enjoy the journey along the way."

Part of the enjoyment Brugler finds in his career is the interaction with the public. His frequently-updated Twitter account (@dpbrugler) boasts more than 89,000 loyal followers and The Athletic, which hired him as an NFL Draft analyst in August, has growing subscriber numbers in the hundreds of thousands. He joined the rising outlet following successful stints as an analyst for NFL Draft Scout and CBS Sports, which provided him with learning opportunities for communicating with the masses.

“Everyone is an armchair quarterback and evaluator. I have an opportunity to discuss different topics with people, and I really enjoy the interaction,” he said.

In order to be the expert that he is on NFL prospects, Brugler watches anywhere from 30-50 hours of film each week and attends numerous events like the Senior Bowl and various pro days. He is also a regular at the NFL Combine and has appeared on several podcasts to provide his analysis.

Hall of Fame Influences

Gil Brandt, vice president of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys for 28 years and 2018 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee, is someone Brugler cites as an influence in his career. On paper, this relationship makes perfect sense, with Brandt being the Mr. Miyagi to Brugler’s Karate Kid in terms of player analysis and scouting. Brandt is recognized by many as one of the foremost pioneers of the NFL Draft and scouting technology.

Yet, there was another interesting role model in Brugler’s life who also has a hall of fame pedigree: Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach, then chair of the Super Bowl Committee for Dallas.

One of Brugler’s most career-affirming moments came when he worked for the Super Bowl, where he first met Staubach, though the focus was not on the pigskin. Brugler often followed the Cowboys legend to events and handled the media; one of these events found Staubach throwing out the first pitch on



The Brugler family (l-r) Stephanie, Keegan, Kara, and Dane.

Opening Day in 2010 for the Texas Rangers. This led to a moment that any sports fan would remember for years to come.

“We’re on the field during the pregame. It’s a packed stadium with Opening Day and [Staubach] said ‘Man, I need to get my arm warmed up...’ After he looks around, he sees me and says, ‘Hey Dane, grab a glove,’” Brugler recalls.

“We start playing catch, and I realize I’m standing on the field, five minutes before first pitch on Opening Day, playing catch with Roger Staubach, it kind of blew my mind. It’s something I’ll never forget and something you don’t ever dream could happen.”

A Lifelong Purple Raider

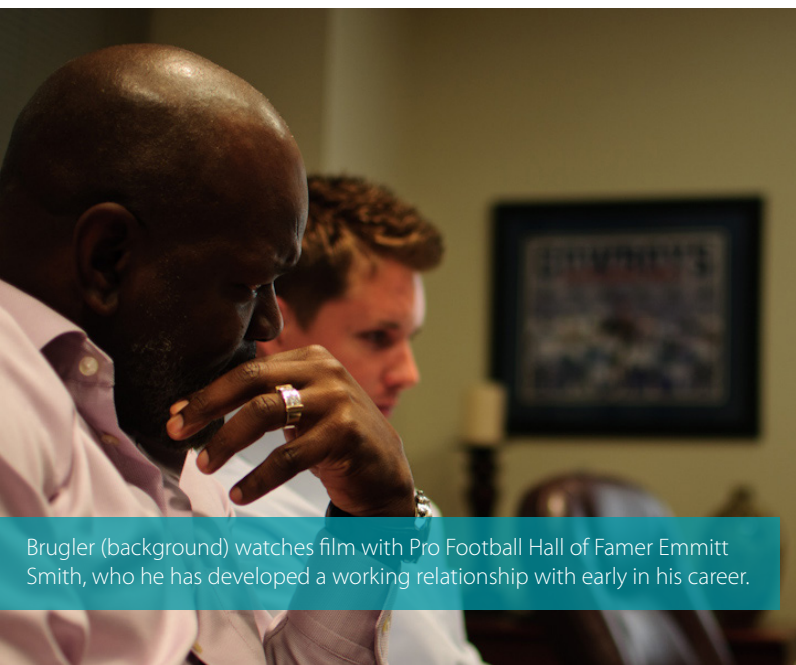
Though Brugler is blessed to have incredible opportunities in his area, living in Texas does not afford him the chance to visit Mount Union as much as he would like. However, he manages to stay connected both with his sports information colleagues and in being a brother of the Sigma Nu fraternity. He reinforces that fraternity life was an experience that helped shape him into who he is today and that he still has many close relationships from that experience. He also tries to get his sports information contemporaries together and have dinner with De Matteis, SanFilippo, Dellosa, and Brent Stehlik ’99 whenever he comes back to Ohio.

His experience at Mount Union gave Brugler the skills and relationships he needed to become one of the rising stars in the world of sports media. He continues to work hard to become the best scout and writer he can be, but is grateful for the opportunities that have led him to where he is today.

Much like the fans of the Tim Couch-led 1999 Cleveland Browns, many college graduates seek immediate success upon walking across the commencement stage, Brugler included. However, the best piece of advice he felt he could pass along to the Purple Raiders of past, present, and future is the need for patience.

“Many view success as a straight line once you set your goals and work hard to achieve them, but it doesn’t always work out,” he said. “Anything worthwhile is going to take time to build. If we found immediate success, we would not be able to build the character necessary for true success.”

One would expect nothing less coming from a talent evaluator making his name known well beyond the gridiron.




Brugler (background) watches film with Pro Football Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith, who he has developed a working relationship with early in his career.

CLASS NOTES

Class Notes to be included in the Fall/Winter 2019 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before October 31, 2019.

Material for Class Notes is obtained from the "Update" form at the end of the *Mount Union Magazine*, 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.

 **Class Reunion**
Come back to campus to celebrate your class reunion on October 19 during Mount Union's Alumni Week-end and Homecoming!

The Office of Alumni Engagement is seeking reunion volunteers to contact former classmates and assist in planning. Contact alumni@mountunion.edu if you're interested in assisting your class.

Members of the classes of 1954, 1959, 1964, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014 can reach out to assist in planning their major anniversaries!

1960s

The artwork of **Phyllis (Kohring '68) Faninn** of Lakewood, Ohio was featured in an exhibition at the Sally Otto Art Gallery on campus. The exhibit was titled "Making an Impression: Lineage from Teacher to Student" and ran from January 14-February 22, 2019.



1970s

Philip Kiko '73 was again elected by a vote of the U.S. House of Representatives to serve as chief administrative officer on January 3, 2019 when the 116th Congress convened. He is one of three elected officers of the House of Representatives.

Laura (Aho '72) Parsons and P. David Swartz were married on April 4, 2017. They currently reside in Melbourne, Florida.

Dave Ward '75 of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio was recently inducted into the Cloverleaf (Medina) Athletic Hall of Fame.

1980s

Thomas Maderia '80 was selected as Burlington County New Jersey coach of the year and Brook Irvine South Jersey coach of the year after a 10-1 record this past season.

Richard Marabito '85 was named chief executive officer of Olympic Steel in Highland Hills, Ohio.

1990s

Leslie (Schelin '97) and Clark Heffernan were married on November 9, 2018 in New York. They reside in Tappan, New York.

2000s

Andrea (Bruno '09) and Brian Warning were married on July 7, 2018 in Mentor, Ohio. Other members of the wedding party included **Jess Brady '09**, **Jessica (Brutvan '09) Mullally**, **LeAnn**



Havelock '09, **Reneé (Hein '09) Macko**, **Christine (Brutvan '06) Wallace**, **Kendall (Koons '09) McElroy**, **Lindsay (Hayes '09) Young**, and **Kara (Tomaszewski '09) Sciarabba**.

Matt Campbell '03 was awarded the 2018 Grant Teaff Coach of the Year Award by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the Annual American Football Coaches Association Conference.

Elizabeth (Morris '08) and **Ted Dria** announce the birth of a son, Grant. He joins older siblings Rudy, 8, Caroline, 4, and Travis, 3.

Shonna (Taylor '05) and **Chad Figurski** announce the birth of a son, Luca Jack, on November 6, 2018.



Kate (Fortney '09) and **Chris Horne** announce the birth of a son, Oliver, on December 12, 2018.



Kelli (Miller '09) and **Brian Liddle** announce the birth of a son, Mason Patrick, on August 30, 2018. He joins sister Payton, 3.



Audra (Lee '04) Youngen Named Director of Alumni Engagement and University Activities

Audra (Lee '04) Youngen has been hired as the new director of alumni engagement and university activities.

She has been with Mount Union since 2005 and has previously worked in the Office of Admission and as assistant to the president and Board of Trustees.

Audra will lead efforts to continue to connect with and plan events for alumni and friends of Mount Union.



ASSOCIATION MESSAGE



Alumni Weekend is just around the corner, and it is my favorite way to reconnect with Mount Union (second to volunteering on the

Alumni Association of course). The classic stadium brings me back to my own crisp fall days as an undergrad. Yet, attending Alumni Weekend and Homecoming it is not the only way to reconnect or give back.

Leading a local alumni group—or simply participating in local events—helps bring Purple Raider pride all over the state, and in fact all over the country. Dani Rizzo '10 leads the Washington, DC alumni club, and Danae (Millard '91) Barrett leads the Las Vegas, Nevada alumni club.

If your firm has internship opportunities, reach out to the Office of Alumni Engagement, and if you would like a chance to speak in a classroom or to an interest group to discuss your career path or to impart words of wisdom, the Office of Alumni Engagement wants to hear from you.

A contribution to The Mount Union Fund is always welcome, too.

Back to Alumni Weekend: the Alumni Association is always looking for a lead organizer for key anniversary years, 25 and 50 years. I was blessed with a team of fellow classmates who helped me rally our class for our 25th, and can say from experience how rewarding rolling up your sleeves can be.

Anyhow, I hope to see you there. You can't miss me—I'll be wearing purple!

With Raider Pride...

-Bob Kerr '89
Alumni Association President

Kimberly O'Kelle-Fussner '02 and William Fussner announce the birth of a son, Ryker, on September 26, 2018. He joins siblings Christian, 14, and Kennedy, 3.



Kathryn (Jones '04) and Eric Young announce the birth of a son, Michael, on October 28, 2018. He joins siblings Luke and Noah.



Beth (Macura '08) and Andrew Youtz '09 announce the birth of a son, Charles John, on October 3, 2018.



Aimee (Rankin '05) Zundel was elevated to equity partner with the Pittsburgh law firm of Weiss, Burkardt, Kramer, LLC where she has worked for 10 years. Her focus is on education law with an emphasis on



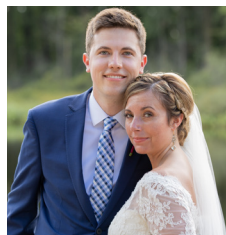
special education, student services, and school policy.

2010s

Melissa (Kunz '12) and Eric Arden announce the birth of a daughter, Olivia Lynn, on September 20, 2018.



Megen Betts '12 and Aaron Simpson '12 were married on September 15, 2018 in Willoughby Hills, Ohio.



Alexa (Farmerie '13) and Chris '13 Bondra announce the birth of a daughter, Grace Victoria, on January 1, 2019. She joins brother Boyd, 1.



Lisa Brasdovich '14 and Chase Swisher '15 were married on August 4, 2018. The couple resides in Westerville, Ohio. Alumni members of their wedding party included **Taylor Ruffing '14, Erin (Krafka '13) Orlins, Garrett Swisher '15, Dannie Mack '15, Andrew Milhoan '15, and Tyler Mettile '15.**





SAVE THE DATE!



2019 MOUNT UNION ALUMNI WEEKEND AND HOMECOMING



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

VISIT MOUNTUNION.EDU/ALUMNI-WEEKEND-AND-HOMECOMING FOR DETAILS.

Celebrate Yesterday and Today

Members of the Class of 1969 came together in May to celebrate their Golden Anniversary in 2019. Classmates enjoyed a tour of campus, walking with the graduating class, and catching up with friends.



It's your turn, Class of 1970! Plan a trip to Mount Union to celebrate your 50th Class Reunion on May 15, 2020!

RAIDERS *give*



WAS A
RECORD-
BREAKING
SUCCESS




885

TOTAL DONORS

\$287

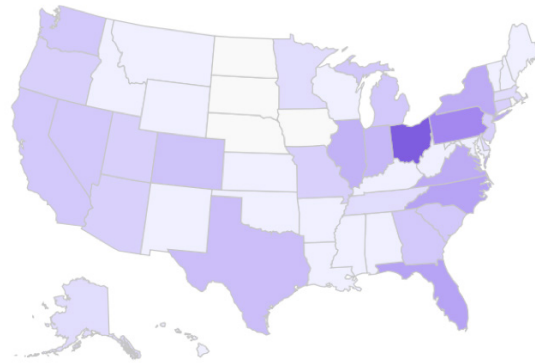
AVERAGE GIFT

76

SOCIAL AMBASSADORS

\$260,680

TOTAL RAISED



46 STATES + BELARUS



\$118,500

IN CHALLENGES UNLOCKED

3,770

TWITTER ENGAGEMENTS

1

24 HOURS
ONE DAY
ONE MOUNT



10,985

WEBPAGE VIEWS



137

STUDENT DONORS



160

FACULTY AND STAFF DONORS



171

YOUNG ALUMNI
DONORS



78

PARENT AND FAMILY
DONORS



CLASS OF
2018
HIGHEST
PARTICIPATION



Kelly Emery '12 and Andy Buechner were married on May 12, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. The couple resides in Grove City, Ohio. Members of the wedding party included **Emily (Kominko '12) Wobser, Michelle (Bryan '12) Kosko, and Megan Stacey '12.**



Sarah (Mariani '10) and Christopher Durr announce the birth of a son, Oliver Everett, on January 1, 2018.

Jennifer Galletti '10, M' 17 announces the birth of her son, Vincenzo Lee, on January 6, 2019.

Dana Goehring '16 and Jeffrey Looker '14 were married on April 7, 2018. The couple resides in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Olivia Holt '14 and Rosa LaMattina '13 were married on October 12, 2018 in Massillon, Ohio. Members of the wedding party included **Brittany Kilgore '13, Maggie Miller '13, Kelly Bruce '15, Tierney Allen '13, Emily Albanese '13, Kelly Evans '12, Laura Coxe '14, Marybeth Leitch '13, Amanda Turner '14, Bridget Lyons '14, and Taylor Webb '14.**



Emily Love '15 and Kevin Weir were married on June 23, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. Alumni members of their wedding party included **Sarah Tubbesing '13, Megan Saunders '14, and**



Gina Wall '15. Also in attendance were the class of 2015 UMU women's soccer team and uncles of the bride, **Wayne Parsons '84 and Thomas Love '82.**

Kristina (Colant '12) and Brian Kordal announce the birth of a daughter, Isabella Genevieve, on July 17, 2017.

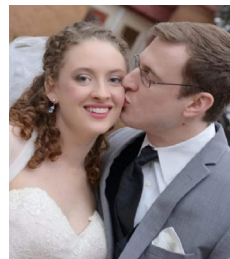
Lauren (Shaub '10) and Brian '10 Mogus announce the birth of a daughter, Madison Anna, on September 25, 2018.



Taylor (Sassa '10) and Andrew '10 Neimes announce the birth of a daughter, Mackenzie Mae, on February 1, 2019.



Emily (Phillip '15) and Eric Rhoads were married on December 22, 2018. The couple resides in North Olmstead, Ohio.



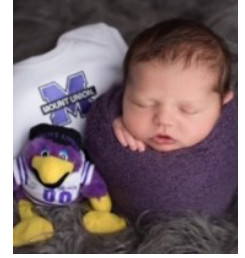
Madeline (Phillips '17) and Connor Shanahan were married on December 29, 2018 in Lynchburg, Virginia. The wedding party included **Nikki Bonaduce '17,**



Amy Slusher '17, Shannon Ellsworth '17, and Caitlin Bradley '17. Madeline will graduate in May 2019 from Liberty University with a Master of Science degree in human performance and exercise science.

Kayla Ruffner '17 was awarded 3rd place at the PITCH U competition held at the Midtown Tech Hive. Participants presented their business ideas to a panel of early-stage investors in 90 seconds or less.

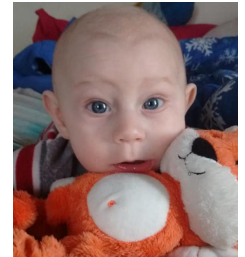
Amber (Rinaldi '10) and Dan '10 Schrader announce the birth of a son, Grayson, on September 14, 2018.



Abby (Honaker '11) and Chris Schroeder announce the birth of a daughter, Sara Grace, on January 4, 2019.



Jessica (DeWitt '11) and Rob Wagner announce the birth of a son, Thor Zachary, on July 25, 2018.



Felice and Alfred Wilson '10 announce the birth of a daughter, Savannah Danielle, on February 1, 2019.



Deaths

1940s

Alice (Denholm '49) Bolster of Villa Park, Illinois passed away January 2, 2017.

Lorena May (Burnell '49) Campbell of Olympia Fields, Illinois passed away October 5, 2018.

Marie (Freuler '45) Coppock of Scotts Valley, California, passed away April 7, 2019.

Russell Etherton '49 of Canton, Ohio passed away October 8, 2018.

Rosalyn (Koffmehl '49) Kahler of Canton, Ohio passed away January 21, 2019.

Marjorie (Heaston '41) Pappas of Sun City, Arizona passed away March 24, 2019.

Stevos Zervos '48 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away February 18, 2019.

1950s

Chester Ball, Jr. '52 of Morgan Mill, Texas passed away January 3, 2019.

Fred Balzer '58 of North Canton, Ohio passed away March 22, 2019.

Alice (Lindsey '50) Bennett of Sebring, Ohio passed away March 16, 2019.

Robert Bonnes '50 of Alliance, Ohio passed away March 15, 2019.

Ray Brunner '57 of Alliance, Ohio passed away February 25, 2019.

Jean (Kirk '55) Coats of Hudson, Ohio passed away March 12, 2019.

Cletus Conrad '50 of Orrville, Ohio passed away March 3, 2019.

Donald Evans '51 of Columbiana, Ohio spouse of **Kay (Martin '51) Evans**, passed away February 1, 2019.

Betty Hartley '57 of Kingsville, Ohio passed away January 20, 2019.

James Mackey '52 of Tallmadge, Ohio passed away March 19, 2019.

Ruth (McCallum '55) McKenna, of State College, Pennsylvania, passed away April 4, 2019.

William Mihalyi '51 of Burlington, Wisconsin passed away on January 24, 2019. He was preceded in death by his spouse, **Margaret (Meacham '49) Mihalyi**.

Donna (Carlisle '51) Miller of Alliance, Ohio spouse of **George Miller '51**, passed away March 2, 2019.

Dorothy (Werstler '49) McPherson

Dorothy J. "DJ" (Werstler '49) McPherson of Naples, Florida passed away December 12, 2018.

She met, and later married, the late **Richard '49** in a religion class at Mount Union. They were married 66 years.

The McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex, which opened on campus in 2009, is Mount Union's primary

health and wellness complex and an extremely popular gathering spot for students. The facility is named in honor of Richard and Dorothy, whose generosity provided for the McPherson Center for Human Health and Well-Being in 1996, as well as for the latest additions and renovations.



Margaret (Kinsey '51) Rodman

Margaret (Kinsey '51) Rodman of Alliance, Ohio passed away on May 30, 2019. She was married to the late **Dr. James Rodman '49**.

She was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority and the National Cabinet of Mount Union Women. She was also active in the Alliance community in serving as president of the Alliance YWCA and as president of the Board of Trustees of Rodman Public Library.

The Rodman family has supported Mount Union and the Alliance community in numerous ways, including the Rodman Playhouse, the Rodman Observatory, and establishing WRMU.



Thomas Paris '50 of Lyndhurst, Ohio passed away December 12, 2018.

Sheila "Peggy" (Sunday '54) Pohjala of Medina, Ohio, spouse of **John Edward Pohjala '52** passed away December 5, 2018.

Esther (Heindel '53) Stewart of Poland, Ohio passed away February 27, 2019.

Marilyn (Brunn '53) Wagoner of Kennesaw, Georgia passed away December 21, 2018. She was preceded in death by her spouse, **Charles Wagoner '54**.

Carol (Gorby '56) Weber of Lisbon, Ohio passed away February 14, 2019.

Nancy (Howell '51) Wetzell of East Liverpool, Ohio passed away March 1, 2019.

C. Thomas Whipple '57 of Mentor, Ohio passed away February 17, 2019.

1960s

Ames Allen '63 of Plain City, Ohio passed away February 26, 2019.

David Augusta '69 of Wylie, Texas, passed away in 2018.

John Bovyer '68 of Hudson, Ohio passed away March 24, 2019.

John Carter '69 of Ravenna, Ohio passed away May 21, 2017.

H. Michael Crowl '61 of Canton, Ohio, spouse of **Anne (Shilts '61) Crowl**, passed away December 13, 2018.

Vaughn Davis '69 of West Chester, Ohio passed away October 15, 2018.

Margaret "Peg" (Smyth '69) Decker of New Glarus, Wisconsin passed away January 24, 2019.

John Ewing '60 of Akron, Ohio passed away November 27, 2018.

Robert Curtis Hettler '68 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away October 29, 2018.

Lynn Markley '60 of Canton, Ohio passed away February 19, 2019.

Lynn (Toronski '69) Mellott, spouse of **Ronald Mellott '70** of Grand Blanc, Michigan passed away January 8, 2019.

Patrick Pinney '64 of Liberty, Ohio, spouse of **Carol (Albrecht '65) Pinney**, passed away March 8, 2019.

Mary Ellen (Callahan '69) Schaffer of Stow, Ohio passed away on August 20, 2017.

James Springer '67 of Ada, Michigan passed away February 6, 2019.

Susan Wagner '67 of Canton, Ohio passed away November 17, 2018.

Jack Yeager '66 of Stow, Ohio passed away February 20, 2019.

1970s

Ruth (Neitz '71) Fairbee of Lewes, Delaware passed away March 17, 2019.

Douglas Heesten '71 of Cincinnati, Ohio passed away in April 2017.

Rev. James Hillis Humphrey '79 of Guilford Lake (Hanoverton), Ohio passed away December 29, 2018.

David Morrow '70 of Amesbury, Massachusetts passed away January 10, 2019.

1980s

Brian Lenz '82 of Raleigh, North Carolina passed away January 4, 2019.

Kevin Laughlin '80 of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania passed away November 19, 2018.

Joe Reigle '84 of Madison, Ohio, spouse of **Kimberly (Simpson '84) Reigle**, passed away December 23, 2018.

1990s

Docia (Gaiton '93) Grimm of Carrollton, Ohio, spouse of **Frank Grimm '97**, passed away February 5, 2019.

Sean Ransom '92 of Lewis Center, Ohio passed away February 2, 2019.

Friends

Gerald Barker of Bolivar, Ohio passed away December 9, 2018.

Ruth Ann Betz of Minerva, Ohio passed away November 11, 2018.

Luella (Slack) Byler of Salem, Ohio passed away December 22, 2018.

Gwen (Campbell) Guiraud of Poland, Ohio passed away January 28, 2019.

Marjorie (Schallus) Hammond of Harrisonburg, Virginia passed away March 28, 2019.

James "Jim" Hogan of Topeka, Kansas passed away December 18, 2018.

Stanley Krawson of Canton, Ohio passed away January 6, 2019.

James Lombardi of Jackson Township, Ohio passed away January 19, 2019.

Inez Louise (Jones) McInerney of Cumberland, Rhode Island passed away November 14, 2018.

Quinten "AJ" Plikerd of Albuquerque, New Mexico passed away September 28, 2018.

Robert Ribar of Steubenville, Ohio passed away December 1, 2018.

Kathryn (Long) Saltsman, of Sebring, Ohio passed away March 1, 2019.

James Slough of Findlay, Ohio passed away January 21, 2019.

Gail (Wingerter) Sponseller of Toledo, Ohio, spouse of **Edward Sponseller '62**, passed away November 11, 2018.

Mount Union Employees

Marcella (Estock) Berletich

Marcella (Estock) Berletich of Sebring, Ohio passed away January 30, 2019. She was a secretary in the library.

William Banfield

William Banfield '62 of Culver, Indiana, spouse of **Mary (Carson '62) Banfield**, passed away on December 12, 2018. He worked in alumni relations from 1964-1970.

Dr. John Fleischauer

Dr. John Fleischauer of Centerville, Ohio passed away January 13, 2019. He was dean of academic affairs from 1981-1987.

Nikki Ann Hensley

Nikki Ann Hensley of New Port Richey, Florida passed away February 24, 2019. She was an administrative assistant and housekeeper.

Dorothy Johnson

Dorothy Johnson of Alliance, Ohio passed away November 29, 2018. She retired from Mount Union as maintenance supervisor in 1993.

Rebecca Perkins

Rebecca Perkins of Alliance, Ohio passed away May 30, 2019. She was a housekeeper on the Physical Plant staff from 2014 until her passing. Her husband **Mike** is a member of the campus security staff.

David Ruiz

David Ruiz of Canton, Ohio passed away in January 2019. He was clinical education coordinator and an instructor for the athletic training program.

James Vincent

James Vincent of Johnstown, Pennsylvania passed away January 16, 2019. He was a professor of theatre from 1963-1993.



UPDATE FORM

An update about you and your family is always requested by fellow alumni, and the Office of Alumni Engagement would like to know as well! If you have any news for us, complete this form and send it to:

Office of Alumni Engagement
University of Mount Union
1972 Clark Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601
(800) 992-6682
(330) 823-2030
Fax (330) 829-2805
alumni@mountunion.edu

You may update your information online at: mountunion.edu/alumni.

Remember, pictures are welcome! They will be used at the discretion of the magazine staff, as space allows. Photos that are submitted for publication in the magazine cannot be returned.

I do not want my information to be included in the *Mount Union Magazine*.

Please note: The University of Mount Union does not sell alumni contact information. It does, however, provide access to our alumni list to a limited number of third party vendors with which the University has contracted to conduct business on its behalf (market research, class agents, etc.).

Name and Address The information I am providing is new.

Dr. Rev. Mr. Ms. Mrs. Miss Name _____ first _____ last _____ maiden _____ Year of graduation _____

Dr. Rev. Mr. Ms. Mrs. Miss Spouse's name _____ first _____ last _____ maiden _____ Year of graduation (if from Mount) _____

Home address _____ box/house number and street _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Home telephone number () _____ Cell phone number () _____

Email address _____

Occupation The information I am providing is new.

Your occupation (title) _____

Employer (full name) _____

Business address _____ box/house number and street _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Telephone number () _____ Email address _____

Spouse's occupation (title) _____

Employer (full name) _____

Business address _____ box/house number and street _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Telephone number _____ Email address _____

Children The information I am providing is new.

Child's name _____ male female Date of birth _____ month / day / year _____ projected HS grad year _____

Child's name _____ male female Date of birth _____ month / day / year _____ projected HS grad year _____

Child's name _____ male female Date of birth _____ month / day / year _____ projected HS grad year _____

Marriage Announcement The information I am providing is new.

Date of marriage _____

Honor or Achievement

Other Information

Jim '84 and Denise Costanzo

Visiting campus regularly isn't out of the ordinary for Jim Costanzo '84, CEO of Nordic Consulting and current member of the Board of Trustees, and his wife Denise. In fact, they make the four-hour drive (one-way) quite frequently to catch a theatre production their daughter (Stacey '19) helps put on or watch their son (Anthony '21) compete on the track and field team. They also spend time with the Raider Racing Team, which competes in the Society of Automotive Engineers Baja Division, where Anthony is a mechanic and driver. And, if that's not enough, Jim and Denise like to check out the McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex, where their youngest daughter Emily will compete in swimming this fall as an incoming freshman.

While the Costanzos have experienced first-hand the value that facility enhancements, scholarship opportunities, and program enrichment have on an education, it's their ambition for others to experience it, too.

"We're hoping some of our gifts help provide an education for students who otherwise couldn't attend Mount," Jim said. "We have a personal long-term commitment to education."

"The whole educational process really does prepare people for life after school and in the working world," Denise added. "The more kids who can get an education, the more successful people are going to be."

The Costanzos continue to be avid supporters of the University and want to make a difference in the lives of current and future Purple Raiders.



"Most of our gifts are typically unrestricted because we really do believe in the administration and want to give the University the ability to use our funds in the best way possible," Jim noted. "The things we have done as an institution have truly set us apart and put us into a different category from other places, and I'm proud of that."

In addition to their unrestricted Mount Union Fund donations, they recently gave a generous gift to the University to name a fabrication lab in the Engineering and Business Building, as well as establish an endowed scholarship for students studying technical theatre.

Jim and Denise are building a legacy. They strongly believe Mount Union not only provides an outstanding education, but fosters an encouraging learning environment that gives students an opportunity to become part of something bigger.

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.



THE MOUNT UNION
Fund

"I am forever grateful for the support of our alumni. My life would be so different without the opportunities I've experienced at Mount Union and the scholarships that make it all possible."

Kendall Shadie '21

EXERCISE SCIENCE MAJOR
BIOLOGY MINOR
AKRON, OH

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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

Summer Snapshot 7/18, 8/7

Fall Visit 9/21, 11/2

Marching Band Visit 10/5

Nursing Visit 10/16

Engineering Visit 10/17

Health Professions Visit 10/30

School Counselor Visit 11/8

Presidential Scholarship 12/7

More info: mountunion.edu/visit-campus