

MOUNT UNION

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

SPRING/SUMMER
2024



STUDENTS FIRST

PREVIEW MOUNT UNION'S NEW AND
DYNAMIC STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN INSIDE.



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Get Social with #MountUnion



#BeExceptional

The mission of the University of Mount Union is to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Since our very beginning in 1846, the University of Mount Union has served 10 generations of students – from the Gilded Generation representing those born in the early to mid-1800s to today's Gen Z population. Each generation has come with its own set of characteristics with varying strengths, challenges, needs, and expectations, often leading to conflicting outlooks on life. As such, generations sometimes quickly dismiss what makes the others strong and unique, instead, focusing on the differences that put them at odds with one another.

When I read recently that today's generation of Gen Z college students was sometimes referred to as "The Entitlement Generation," I took a moment to reflect. News report after news report blames everything from participation trophies to helicopter parenting for their perceived lack of work ethic, yet I struggle to reconcile what society says about these young adults with what I have experienced first-hand on our campus. Although I can't speak with authority about Gen Z students on other campuses, what I can tell you with certainty is that "The Entitlement Generation" is a misnomer when it comes to today's Mount Union students.

At the University, our students push themselves to be the best versions of themselves every day, often overcoming numerous hurdles in the process. As detailed on the right, many Mount Union students represent the first generation of their families to attend college, are high-need when it comes to financial aid, and work during the academic year and summer to help offset the cost of their degrees. As a generation, they continue to face problems unique to the times,

just as the members of the generations that came before them, and in my opinion, they do so with grace and grit.

As students who are making a significant investment in their college education, they rightfully hold the University to a high standard. What's important to note is that they hold themselves to an even higher one. In fact, their perseverance transcends mere tenacity as they relentlessly pursue excellence no matter the setting – the classroom, the field, the stage, the lab, and so on.

And, for our students on campus, it's not about just "me" but "we." Gen Zs are known to be generous with their time and energy and very engaged with community service, and our students certainly prove this attribute to be true. This past year alone, more than 250 students engaged in our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and nearly 3,000 pounds of food was collected by students for the Alliance Community Pantry through the annual Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods, among many other service efforts.

In our community and our classrooms, our students exude an unwavering moral toughness to stand up for the greater good and the brave determination to face any challenges head on. They are united in a belief that there is a better way and that they must help build it. This is most certainly a life philosophy with which I can get on board.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. King '89
President

83%

OF STUDENTS
RECEIVE NEED-BASED
FINANCIAL AID

30%

OF STUDENTS
ARE FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS

80%

OF STUDENTS
PARTICIPATE IN
COMMUNITY SERVICE

30%

OF STUDENTS
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE
PELL GRANT



BLUECOATS SPEND SUMMER ON CAMPUS AS PART OF FIVE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Over the summer months, the world-renowned Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps “moved in” to Mount Union’s campus as part of a long-term agreement that will keep the Bluecoats Spring Training, The Blue Way Summer Arts Camp, Bluecoats Opening Night Community Celebration, and the Bluecoats Fellowship Residency at the University for the next five years.

The corps’ annual Spring Training, held each May and June, is the pre-season training camp for the corps. The corps participants, staff, and volunteers descended on the beautiful Mount Union campus for nearly six weeks to produce the summer’s competitive show and prepare for the more than 8,000-mile national tour.

Leveraging this new home base, the organization significantly expanded its local programming. Nearly 200 students attended The Blue Way Summer Arts Camp, an overnight summer camp for high school students aspiring to be Bluecoats, and nearly 3,000 people flocked to the Bluecoats Opening Night Community Celebration, which featured every single drum corps operating in the State of Ohio, in exhibition.

“We could not be more pleased by the opportunity to extend our initial partnership with the Bluecoats by engaging in this five-year partnership,” said Gregory L. King ’89, president of the University. “Our inaugural experience with this top-notch organization was outstanding, and the Mount Union and Alliance communities made their support of this partnership known by showing up for event after event. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to put our campus and its facilities to good use over the summer months while also making a positive economic impact on our community.”

New in 2024, the Bluecoats and the University also jointly hosted Band Director Days in partnership with Mount Union. These jam-packed, single-day events provided an opportunity for band directors to visit Bluecoats Spring Training and get a peek behind the curtain as the world-renowned marching ensemble learned and produced its show.

Also operated alongside Spring Training was the residency portion of the Bluecoats Fellowship, an honors program for a select few up-and-coming designers in the marching arts who come from traditionally under-represented communities.

MOUNT UNION ANNOUNCES NEW INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The University has announced two new minors to develop leaders ready to take on the next generation of technology – artificial intelligence (AI) and applied artificial intelligence. Both programs will be available beginning in fall 2024.

The artificial intelligence program is designed for those interested in pursuing a career in the technical side of AI. Taught by expert faculty and rooted in the foundation of Mount Union's strong computer science and data science and analytics majors, students will enhance skills in machine learning, algorithm development, and programming.

Mount Union's new offering in applied artificial intelligence provides a more inclusive and accessible experience. This minor is designed for those looking to harness the power of AI tools and applications in their careers. The applied AI program offers an understanding of AI fundamentals, hands-on experiences with AI applications and tools relevant to students' disciplines, and an exploration of ethical issues within the field.



PARTNERSHIP TO EXPAND WORKFORCE TRAINING AND RESKILLING OPPORTUNITIES

Mount Union recently announced a new strategic partnership with ed2go, a leading provider of adult online education and part of Cengage Group, to expand online training opportunities across in-demand industries. Mount Union will offer hundreds of affordable online courses through the agreement.

ed2go partners with many academic institutions to provide innovative, relevant courses that align with job market demand and cover a variety of industries such as HVAC, medical billing, and information technology. Programs range from career and certification training to personal and professional development courses focusing on teaching transferable and in-demand skills.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED DURING ANNUAL HONORS CONVOCATION

During this year's Senior Recognition and Honors Convocation, Dr. Kim Risley, professor of biology, chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, and the Milton J. Lichty Chair in Biology, was named the 2024 recipient of the Great Teacher Award, given annually by the Mount Union Alumni Association.

Risley has been a member of the Mount Union faculty since 2004 and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology from North Dakota State University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in microbiology and immunology from East Carolina University's School of Medicine.



Also during the event, Braydon Lazzara '24 and Aaliyah Kinnard '24 were named the 2024 Outstanding Seniors.

Lazzara is an exercise science major from Munroe Falls, Ohio, and has held numerous leadership positions on campus. He is also a student-athlete on the men's soccer and indoor and outdoor track and field teams.

Kinnard, a psychology major from North Canton, Ohio, has also been very active on campus and served as the senior class co-president for 2024.



MOUNT UNION RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) recently announced its second cohort of institutions to earn the Ohio Reach Postsecondary Designation, and the University of Mount Union is pleased to be one of the 12 new campuses recognized. This designation is awarded to those campuses meeting criteria that depict their support of students with experience in foster care or kinship. Mount Union is the only Ohio Athletic Conference institution and one of only 40 colleges, universities, and technical centers across the state to earn this designation.

In addition, three online courses at the University – College Algebra, Young Adult Literature, and Leadership for Organizations – have been nationally certified by Quality Matters (QM). To receive this recognition, a course earns the QM Certification Mark once it meets QM Rubric Standards at the 85% threshold or better and meets all Essential Standards. All three Mount Union courses scored 100% to earn the certification. This recognition comes on the heels of the institution's original earning of certification for four other courses in the spring of 2023, including Professional Writing, Marketing Management, Foundations of Leadership, and Anatomy and Physiology I.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH STARK STATE OPEN NEW PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS

Two new partnerships have been formed with Stark State College, including a new reverse transfer agreement and a new pathway focused on medical science. The new offerings are in addition to existing pathways between Mount Union and Stark State in 11 disciplines, through which many students have already found success.

The goal of the reverse transfer agreement is to help students earn an associate degree while pursuing a bachelor's degree upon transferring to Mount Union. Upon completion of the Stark State required courses at Mount Union, students will then earn an associate degree while taking the same courses to fulfill the bachelor's degree requirements at Mount Union.

The Associate of Science degree in pre-medical to Bachelor of Science degree in biology pathway provides a clear track for students interested in pursuing a career and graduate study in physician assistant (PA) studies. This opportunity will provide exposure to additional requirements sought by many PA programs across the country while fulfilling the degree requirements for both an associate and bachelor's degree.



PHYSICAL THERAPY EARNS 10-YEAR REACCREDITATION

Mount Union's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, established in 2016, has earned a 10-year reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The program earned its first accreditation in 2019, and its faculty, staff, and students have worked relentlessly to achieve a track record of success. The program boasts an overall National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) pass rate of 98.7% with 100% of program licensees having gained employment in the field within six months of graduating.

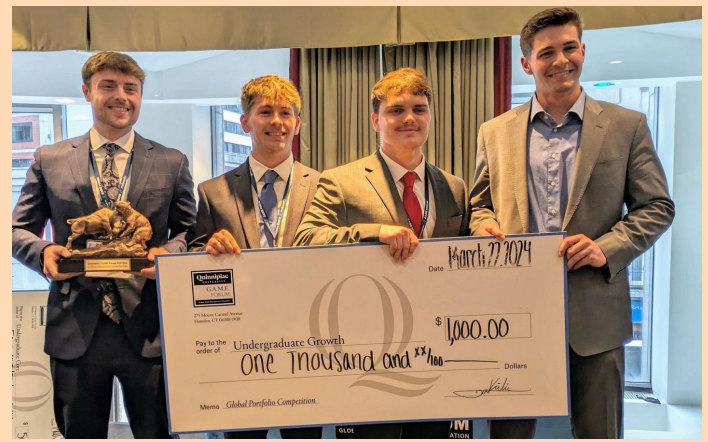
Mount Union is one of only six Ohio private institutions to offer an accredited DPT Program through CAPTE and one of only four private institutions with an early assurance pathway for its undergraduate students.



MOUNT UNION STUDENT WINS STARK TANK

On April 24, Garrett O’Connell ’24, a public relations major, made Mount Union history by taking home the first place prize and a \$13,000 check at “Stark Tank” for his invention, H.O.N.K., making him the first Mount Union student to win the regional entrepreneurship competition.

H.O.N.K. is a first-of-its-kind car security device designed by O’Connell that utilizes a vehicle’s alarm. He is currently working on securing a patent to turn it into an established business after graduation and even has an engineering company that has started producing the product.



INVESTMENT TEAM TAKES HOME \$2,000

Four Mount Union students represented the University’s Investment Team at the annual G.A.M.E. Forum competition in New York City, winning first place in two different categories. Thomas Domanick ’24, James Finch ’25, Ethan Gengarella ’25, and Robert Musser ’25 claimed the top prize in undergraduate growth and in undergraduate small fund presenting on their stock investments.

Led by Joel Evans, assistant professor of marketing, the team was able to expand its network and interact with potential employers during the event.

MADAR, BOATRIGHT NAMED TO NEW ACADEMIC DEAN POSITIONS AT MOUNT UNION

Dr. Sandra Madar has been named the dean of undergraduate studies and associate vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Bryan Boatright has been named dean of graduate, digital, and continuing education and associate vice president for academic affairs at the University.

Both previously served as interim co-vice presidents for academic affairs since the fall of 2022. These changes follow the appointment of Dr. William Cunion as vice president for academic affairs in April.

Madar has been with Mount Union since 2019 and has been successfully leading faculty in the natural and health sciences. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in both anthropology and zoology from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in biomedical sciences from Kent State University at the Northeast Ohio Medical University.



Boatright joined Mount Union in 2016 as the University registrar, a role he will continue to fulfill. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration, marketing, and accounting from Carthage College; a Master of Business Administration degree from Ohio Dominican University; and a Doctor of Education degree from Argosy University.



“Bryan and Sandy have provided exceptional leadership during a challenging period of transition at Mount Union,” Cunion said. “We are fortunate and grateful that they will continue to work with our faculty to deliver relevant, high-quality education.”



STUDENTS FIRST

A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2024-

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT TODAY'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FACE MOUNTING OBSTACLES.

In this challenging environment, higher education institutions' responses to declining demographics, a proliferation of higher education options, and a volatile economic environment have varied, as have the results. Some peers are thriving while others are, unfortunately, closing their doors. Mount Union's approach to clearing such hurdles has long been a planful one – recognize the threats, acknowledge the risks, and develop a malleable plan to rise above the challenges. *Students First – A Strategic Action Plan for 2024-2027* is the University's latest effort to set a course for a successful future.

Following the naming of Gregory L. King '89 as the institution's 14th president, a strategic planning process was reinitiated on campus in the fall of 2023. During this time, two additional parallel efforts were taking place.

First, the institution's Board of Trustees mandated that the administration concentrate its efforts for the future on three

STUDENTS

2027

key priorities – enrollment, retention, and affordability – while maintaining fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency.

Additionally, a representative group on campus, comprised of trustees, faculty, staff, students, and partners, assumed responsibility for developing vision and purpose statements that advance the mission of the institution.

A draft of the plan and the above-mentioned statements were presented to the campus community for feedback during the 2024 spring semester, and *Students First* was officially approved by the Board of Trustees during its May meeting. As implementation begins, the obligations set forth by the Board, coupled with the overarching mission, vision, and purpose statements detailed to the right, will serve as checks and balances to ensure that the *Students First* plan not only moves the University forward but does so in a conscientious, sustainable, and strategic manner.



MISSION

The mission of the University of Mount Union is to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.



VISION

As a community, the University of Mount Union upholds its mission by continuously and proactively creating a learning environment for holistic growth and a promising future.



PURPOSE

The University of Mount Union cultivates a learning environment that acknowledges, accepts, and meets differing needs so that everyone is valued, experiences belonging, and achieves their full potential.



GROW

ENROLLMENT STRATEGICALLY

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE #1

Demographic declines, coupled with fierce competition and questions regarding the value of a college degree, continue to impact higher education. The University must position itself for enrollment stability and planful growth in order to adapt and succeed. This challenging environment demands that the institution focus on strategic steps that enhance the undergraduate and graduate student experience, whether delivered on campus or online, and rally as a community to actively further its enrollment efforts.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#1

Stabilize the institution's total enrollment and develop a plan for future enrollment growth.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#2

Make every possible effort to keep a Mount Union education financially and academically accessible to new and returning students of all backgrounds.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#3

Explore new and elevate existing programs – academic, athletic, and co-curricular – that are relevant, drive enrollment, and ensure success after graduation.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#4

Enrich the campus, its properties, and its perimeter to provide a modern and engaging experience for all students.



THE AFFORDABILITY INVESTMENT

One major question continues to linger in the minds of families across the country: is college worth it? The “it” being contested is never the classes, community, or even the dining hall food. The primary worry for so many students and families today comes down to cost alone.

There are several ways in which Mount Union offers its personalized educational experience to all students while lessening their financial burden. Through donor-supported efforts like the President’s Rescue Fund and Student Emergency Fund to year-round courses being offered via accessible delivery methods, earning a college degree remains an attainable goal for those striving for intellectual and professional growth.

The power of the Purple Raider spirit is further illustrated by those who offer gifts to aid the next generation of students. More than 3,400 supporters provided financial support in 2022-2023, and more than 300 endowed scholarships make a Mount Union education possible for student recipients annually.

Millions of students remain ready for a life-changing collegiate experience. Mount Union is preparing a foundation for those future leaders to explore their potential while keeping many financial concerns at bay.

WOMEN’S WRESTLING

Building on the institution’s established success and leveraging the exponential growth of high school girls wrestling, this addition will bring new student-athletes to campus.



ACADEMIC MINORS

With the rapidly changing tech landscape, innovative new minors in artificial intelligence and applied artificial intelligence will prepare the next generation of leaders.



CAMPUS MURAL

Continually striving to better the Alliance community, seven art students added some beauty to Union Avenue by creating a mural on the Eells Art Center this spring.



“ If it weren’t for scholarship support, I’m not sure I would have been able to afford to come to Mount Union. I am so thankful to those who have the heart to give back to help students have the same experiences they had, if not better.

JJ MUCCI '25
Sport Business Major





BOLSTER

STUDENT RETENTION

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE #2

At the heart of all Mount Union does is a drive to foster an exceptional experience that engages students in its welcoming and inclusive environment. Whether they are learning on campus or online, or in undergraduate, graduate, or other educational programs, they should feel engaged, supported, and valued in an atmosphere that respects and celebrates their differences while meeting their unique needs and expectations. By meeting them where they are, the University can be more effective in shaping their success and supporting their journeys toward graduation.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#1

Continue to build upon a solid foundation in advising, retention, and specialized student support programs.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#2

Strengthen the student engagement experience by fostering community, leadership, activity, and belonging in a safe and welcoming environment.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#3

Foster an inclusive and accessible learning environment that allows students to feel a sense of belonging when engaging with content and learning experiences.



RETENTION AS A TOP PRIORITY

While recruiting new students is a key focus, it is also critically important to cultivate a comfortable, supportive, and collaborative environment that encourages students to stay. High retention bolsters overall enrollment numbers, but more importantly, it reflects the institution’s commitment to making good on the promises made to these students when they first joined the Mount Union family.

Recently, the University launched a personalized retention effort – Go-to-Raiders – that pairs each incoming student with a campus mentor who serves as a personal guide throughout the student’s transition to college. Go-to-Raiders are there to help incoming students understand campus culture, plan their fall schedules, and navigate any challenges they may encounter along the way.

Other retention efforts align with the understanding that Mount Union is an “and” school as students aren’t confined to singularly defining themselves. For example, a student may major in civil engineering but still be involved in theatre productions while also participating on the soccer team. This unique experience allows students to be strongly rooted on campus in numerous ways, and if they discontinue a particular involvement, there are remaining points of connection. A new campus mentorship program is expanding this approach, pairing students with academic challenges with peer supporters to deepen their engagement.

RETENTION DIRECTOR

In an effort to further prioritize retention efforts on campus, long-time professor and administrator Dr. Rodney Dick was recently named director of retention.



STUDENT SUCCESS

The Center for Student Success provides academic and career support that complements assistance related to digital and written communication, math, and the Integrative Core.



ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

Through its accessibility efforts, Mount Union is committed to providing equal opportunities to academically-qualified students with disabilities or unique challenges.



“There are numerous members on Mount’s campus who have impacted me and made my journey at UMU unforgettable! It fills me with joy knowing that there’s more than one person on campus who helped me strive to be the best.”

TREYON DAVIS '24
Management Major





DEVELOP

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE #3

Although, historically, many colleges and universities, especially small, private institutions, have chosen to go it alone when facing periods of challenge, modern times demand a shift in strategy. While the volatility of the higher education environment has rendered many institutions vulnerable, Mount Union is committed to transcending the barriers as it paves the way for student success. A partnership evolution may be the catalyst for not only surviving but thriving in the higher education arena.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#1

Partner with employers to explore programmatic development based on their training, continuing education, and degree-required needs.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#2

Enhance community and corporate partnerships, explore co-branding opportunities, and leverage the alumni network to allow for more community-engaged research and experiential learning for students.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#3

Partner with regional officials and community leaders to foster continued collaboration and enhance Alliance and its offerings.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#4

Collaborate with other institutions to offer academic pathways to enhance affordability and reduce the time it takes to earn a degree.



CLINICAL PARTNERS

Our physician assistant studies, physical therapy, and nursing programs have strong partnerships with the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.



STARK STATE

With 12 articulations and a reverse transfer agreement, there are many pathways to earn an associate degree at Stark State College and a bachelor's degree at Mount Union.



CITY EFFORTS

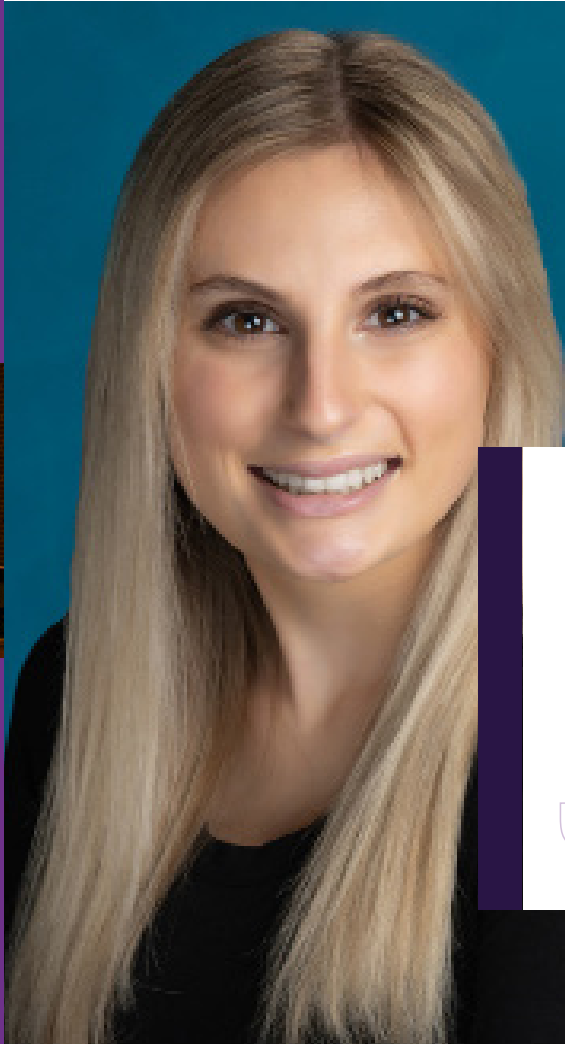
The University is having conversations with key organizations, employers, and individuals in the city to re-imagine Alliance and enhance entertainment options.

THE POWER OF CONNECTION

When many today say “It takes a village,” the adage is often used as a figurative throwaway line. However, in the cases of institutions like Mount Union, stability and growth cannot be done on an island in the current era of higher education. The exploration of new partnerships with industry champions and peer institutions strengthens collaborative efforts and is a vital component of *Students First*.

Efforts such as the Industry Collaboration Summit – a day-long initiative on campus pairing faculty with business leaders – are being developed to understand how Mount Union can best prepare students for exceptional work. These exciting connections, which leverage established strengths of the University, can lead to student internships and careers while ensuring Mount Union is at the forefront of relevant education.

Though leveraging the success of the tens of thousands in the Purple Raider network is not a novel concept, connecting alumni and friends with students is more intentional than ever. Whether it is engineers at The Timken Company advising students on real-world prototypes, the continued success of the Sport Sales Workshop and Job Fair, or the promising Student-Athlete Mentorship Program, there are myriad ways for alumni and business professionals to foster real relationships with students.



Mount Union prepared me for my future by teaching me critical sport business skills, providing opportunities for hands-on learning, and connecting me with successful professionals in the field. As a result, I landed a great job at the Hall of Fame Village.

” ADRIENNE CANESTRARO '23
Sport Business Major



POSITION

THE INSTITUTION FOR DISTINCTION

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE #4

Mount Union has realized a well-earned strong standing among institutions of higher education, yet the ability to shape and share the unique and compelling stories of this exceptional university and student experience has never been more critical. By highlighting what makes Mount Union truly distinct – its people, academic programs, athletics, rankings, facilities, offerings, and more – the University will be poised to position itself as a top choice in Northeast Ohio and, eventually, extend its reach regionally.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#1

Continue to implement a brand and campaign that defines Mount Union's distinctiveness.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#2

Build brand presence on campus through an environmental marketing strategy that highlights students and alumni.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#3

Showcase the institution's people, academics, campus, facilities, digital learning, athletics, and student experience through various marketing channels.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#4

Strive for campus-wide and student-centered excellence in ways that establish Mount Union as the top choice among comprehensive private regional universities in Northeast Ohio.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR #1 RANKED PROGRAMS

Three programs – the Master of Education degree and our undergraduate majors in nursing and sport business – have been ranked #1 in Ohio. This, alongside several other recognitions, marks a banner year for our institution in terms of national accolades, highlighting the many great things happening at Mount Union.

U.S. News and World Report’s top online Master of Education degree program in Ohio belongs to Mount Union, and nationally, the program tied for the best online education program among private institutions in the entire United States. In addition, the nursing program is ranked as the best nursing program in Ohio by Nursing Schools Almanac, and the sport business program continues to be ranked #1 in Ohio and #10 in the nation by Bachelor’s Degree Center.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education recently announced that Mount Union earned the Ohio Reach Postsecondary Designation for supporting students with experience in foster care or kinship. And, for the third time, Mount Union was named to the 2024 Transfer Honor Roll by the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society for its dynamic pathways to support transfer students. In addition, Mount Union’s commitment to increasing affordability has earned it a well-deserved three-star rating and recognition as one of the Best Colleges in America for 2024 by “Money” magazine.

ON-CAMPUS MARKETING

The University continues to build brand presence on campus through environmental marketing that includes graphics, banners, and other imagery.



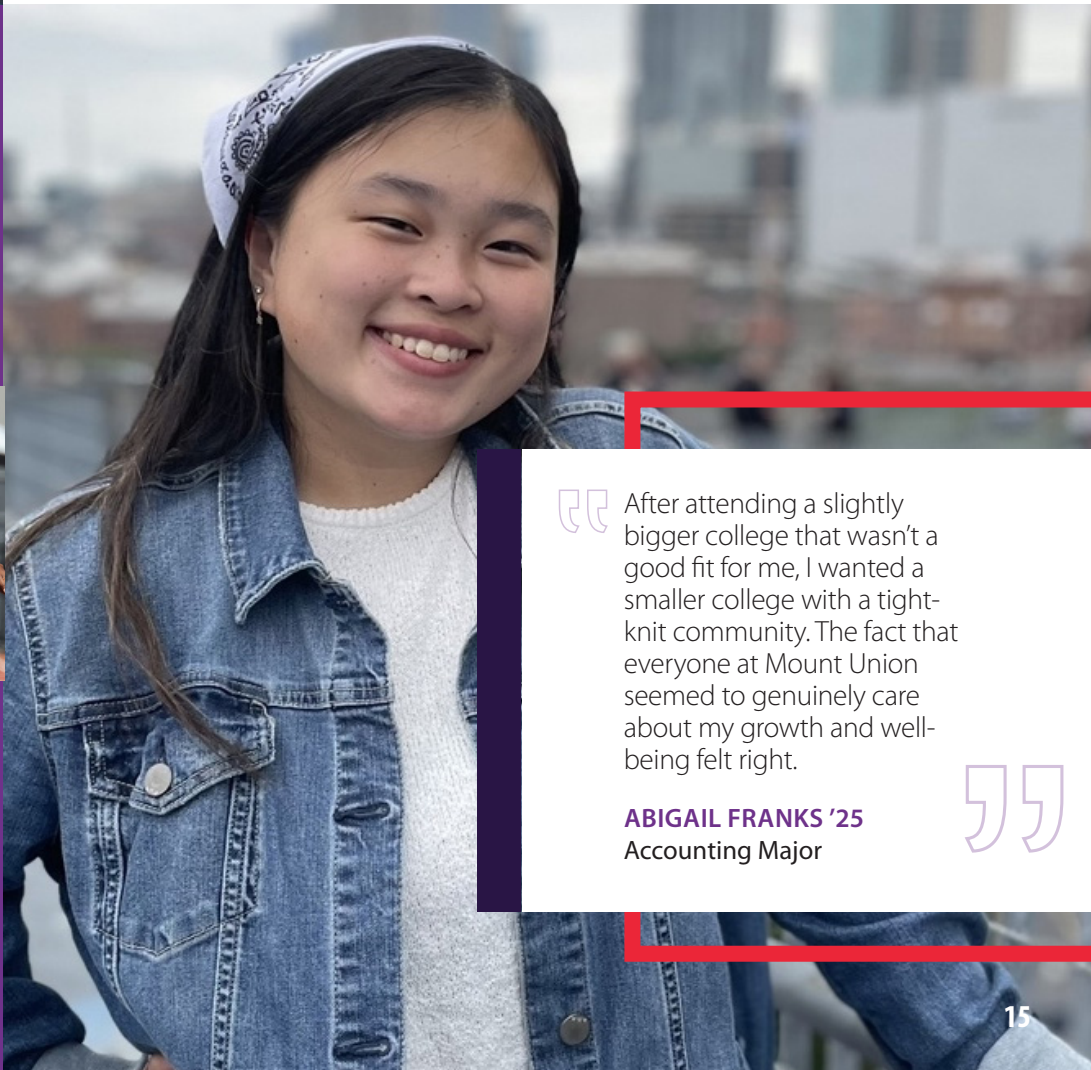
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Mount Union is one of only 522 schools in the nation to be recognized for its sustainability efforts by The Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges for 2024.



NATIONAL CHAMPION

Kenadee Wayt ’23, M ’25 added two national titles to her name as she won the 200 and 400-meters at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships.



“After attending a slightly bigger college that wasn’t a good fit for me, I wanted a smaller college with a tight-knit community. The fact that everyone at Mount Union seemed to genuinely care about my growth and well-being felt right.

ABIGAIL FRANKS ’25
Accounting Major





ENHANCE

BELONGING AND WORKPLACE CULTURE

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE #5

At Mount Union, the focus has been and always will be on putting students first. Yet, no institution can be successful in the long run without employees who believe in its mission and understand their role in achieving it. The University is committed to continuously improving its workplace culture to ensure an enhanced sense of belonging and pride for all employees. Mount Union stands behind the philosophy that when its people feel valued, they are better poised to play a critical role in the experience and success of students.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#1

Offer competitive and equitable compensation, benefits, and professional development opportunities for all employees.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#2

Intentionally develop a diverse, equitable, representative, inclusive, and respectful workplace culture that enables all employees to feel a strong sense of engagement and belonging.

STRATEGIC ACTION

#3

Develop internal communication strategies and rollout procedures that are tailored to various employee populations and enable the community to efficiently manage change.

FUTURE-FORWARD LEADERSHIP

A deep-dive into Mount Union's rich history will unearth the names of visionary leaders whose institutional passion, innovative approaches, and ability to navigate challenging times have molded Mount Union into the successful university it is today. The institution must continue to foster such leadership among its faculty and staff – to cultivate a robust organizational culture built on trust, innovation, and adaptability – to lay the foundation for sustained success.

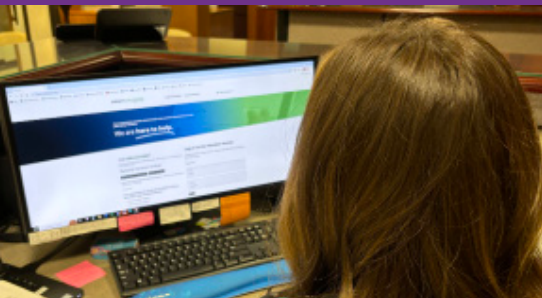
From national opportunities like the prestigious Fulbright Program, American Council on Education's (ACE) Fellows Program, and HERS Leadership Intensive, to regional offerings, including Leadership Stark County and Project Blueprint, Mount Union offers numerous transformational leadership development opportunities for its employees.

Opportunities exist on campus as well. The tuition benefit offered to full-time employees has led to many earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in their fields, furthering their educations in ways that allow them to expand their impact on campus. Additionally, the institution recently launched Leadership Mount Union, an on-campus leadership development program for faculty and staff that focuses on increasing leadership capacity, strengthening the employee network, and inspiring a culture of efficient organizational development.



DARE TO LEAD

Recently, several faculty and staff members became Dare to Lead trained and are now able to share portions of Brené Brown's groundbreaking work on campus.



MENTAL WELLNESS

Through Impact Solutions, employees have access to online mental healthcare professionals to address any issues affecting their overall well-being.



FUN FRIDAYS

Employees enjoy flexible hours in June and July and can participate in Fun Fridays during the summer months, featuring sponsored food trucks and other entertainment.



“ I am extremely grateful for the tremendous support and opportunities I have received at Mount Union. The institution has invested in my growth through education, professional development, and leadership training as well as ensuring I am well-equipped for success in my current role and beyond. ”

LAURA GOOD '13
Director of HRIS,
Compensation, and Benefits

CLASS NOTES

Class Notes for the Fall/Winter 2024 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before October 31, 2024.

Material for Class Notes is obtained online or through news passed along from alumni to the offices of Alumni Engagement, Advancement, and the Mount Union Fund. Notices sent by the Post Office are not printed in Class Notes. You may also submit your class note via email at alumni@moununion.edu or the form found at mountunion.edu/alumni.

1960s

G. Wayne Eggleston '67 was awarded the 2023 Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award by the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce as the founder of The Marine Monument Park Semper Fi, San Clemente. He was previously named Citizen of the Year and served on the San Clemente Planning Commission and as mayor.



1970s

Mary Ellen (Worman '74) Fecser was inducted into the Mentor High School Hall of Fame in April 2023.

1980s

Noel (Wasielewski '87) Kohr is an estate settlement officer, trust office II, at Edward Jones Trust Company.



Mark Litten '82 received certification from the International Economic Development Council and Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives for completing the Workforce Development Fundamentals Course. He was one of 52 professionals nationwide to achieve certification and only four Floridians were selected for the program.

Michael Marsch '86 was named regional director of operations at Real Hospitality Group. Marsch, a hospitality industry veteran, currently oversees a portfolio that includes Marriott, Hilton, and Hyatt branded hotel properties throughout the United States.

1990s

Eric Bortmas '98 earned a doctoral degree in athletic training from Florida International University in December 2023.



Catherine (Oakes '97) Rook was inducted into the Ursuline College Athletic Hall of Fame for her almost 20 years of serving as head athletic trainer. She also earned a Staff Excellence Award for her outstanding work. Her mentor was the late Dan Gorman, longtime director of athletic training at Mount Union. She resides in Parma, Ohio with her husband, Shaun Rook '98, and their two children Casey, 11, and Brayden, 9.



2000s

Joe '05 and Dana Culler announce the birth of a son, Joseph Jett, on June 4, 2024.



Doug Peterman '02 was promoted to president of Peterman Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in 2023. In 2024, the company will celebrate 50 years in business.



Gregory Reichart '08 has been named an associate member of Maiello Brungo and Maiello, LLP's litigation practice group.



2010s

Kristen (Hord '15) and Patrick Costanzo announce the birth of a daughter, Finley Henry, on April 15, 2024.



Larry Kinnard, Jr. '10 has been named athletic director at Hoover High School in North Canton, Ohio.



Olivia (Holt '14) and Rosa '13 LaMattina announce the birth of a daughter, Stella, on December 11, 2023.



Amber (Kemmerer '10) and Bryan '10 McIntyre announce the birth of a daughter, Maryn June, on May 15, 2024.



Emily (Haueter '16) and Matt Moser announce the birth of a daughter, Olive Marion, on November 3, 2023. Olive's grandma is Andrea (Sumser '88) Haueter, and her uncle is Joey Haueter '21.



Alicia (Switzer '13) and Kurt Nickels announce the birth of a son, Cameron, on December 8, 2023, who joins sibling Lucille "Lucy," 2.



Alix (Stein '17) and Cody Null were married on September 30, 2023.

Megan (Lallo '16) and Andrew Peyatt announce the

birth of a son, Connor William, on May 29, 2024.



Stephanie (Novak '12) and Nick Skitko announce the birth of daughter, Cecilia, in October 2023. They reside in Connecticut, working and living at Choate Rosemary Hall boarding school. Stephanie also earned a Master of Science degree in tourism and hospitality management from the University of Florida in April 2024.



Lisa (Brasdovich '14) and Chase '15 Swisher announce the birth of a daughter, Ava, on September 22, 2023.



2020s

Nathan Teall '22 announces the birth of a daughter, Harper, on December 29, 2023, who joins sibling Paislee, 2.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

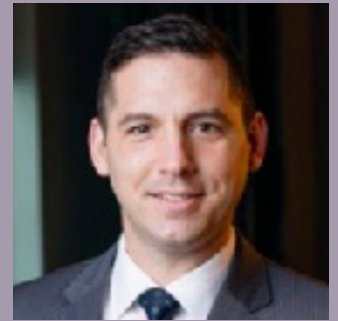
KYLE DREGER '14

Kyle has been named Patriot Software's next chief executive officer. He has been with the company for over a decade, beginning as an intern and then serving in various engineering positions, most recently serving as Patriot's chief product officer. Kyle and his wife, Emily (Mariani '14), have three children, Quinn, Henry, and Morgan.



TODD FLEMING '00

Todd was recently named the executive director of the PGA Tour's Cognizant Classic in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. This appointment comes after a successful stint as senior vice president of global sales for Legends. Fleming officially took this role at the end of this year's tournament.



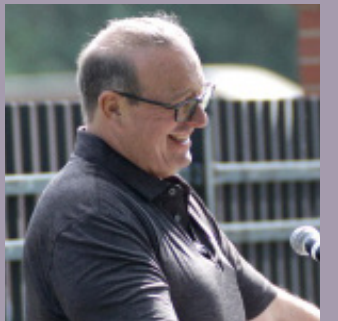
DAN GRIFFITH '99

Dan, the senior vice president and director of wealth strategy at Huntington National Bank, assumed the presidency of the Ohio Bar on July 1, 2024. In his role at Huntington National Bank, Dan oversees a team of advisors specializing in ultra-high net worth clients.



STEVE HARTER '84

Steve was inducted into the College Sports Communicators Academic All-America Hall of Fame. A two-sport athlete turned managing partner of a multi-million dollar business, Steve was recognized as a former Academic All-American who has achieved success in his professional career and is committed to philanthropic causes.



TOGETHER AGAIN

SAVE THE DATE

ALUMNI WEEKEND,
HOMECOMING,
AND FAMILY DAY

OCTOBER 11-13, 2024

RUN-A-MUC 5K | ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC, AND MILESTONE YEAR REUNIONS | MUCAW FUNZONE

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT
[MOUNTUNION.EDU/HOMECOMING](https://mountunion.edu/homecoming)

CLASS OF 1974 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

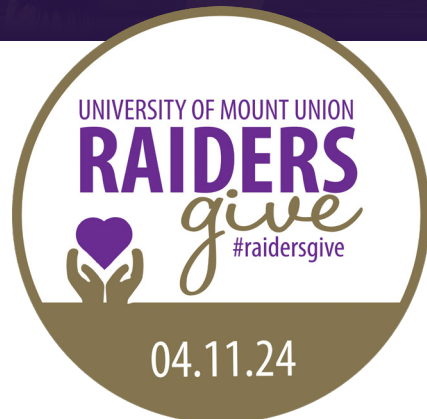
Front Row (l-r): Rhonda (Luca) Morris, Linda (Smith) Johnson, Janet (Sahli) Swihart, Nancy (Albert) Wiggers, Barb (Tuuri) Likins, Lisa (Looney) Murphey, Laurie (Peterson) Dorko, Tommie (Vickers) Wittmann, Paula (Hrusovsky) Hadgis, Harry Paidas, Sandi (Goff) Thomas, Elaine (Mikolay) Fedorisin, Mary Ellen (Worman) Fecser, Cindy (Boerner) Mazda, Laura (Owensby) Berger

Back Row (l-r): Jim DiGregory, Jeff Jakmides, Paul Domino, Nathan Smith, Tom Boothe, Doug Garver, Roger Herbst, Larry Griffith, Ed Lawrence, Stephen Turchan, Janet (Martin) Cummings, Jane Benner, Chris Monrad, David Worth, Eric Wells

TORRE



FOR SHOWING UP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



ON APRIL 11, 2024, THE MOUNT UNION COMMUNITY SHOWED UP TO MAKE A DIRECT DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE PURPLE RAIDERS DURING OUR SEVENTH ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING, RAIDERS GIVE!

On that day, **1,025** generous alumni, students, parents, employees, and friends collectively came together to give **\$384,082** in direct support for our students. With minutes to spare, we unlocked the \$200,000 Trustee Challenge, and that's why today (and every day) we celebrate the strength of our Mount Union family!

DEATHS

1940s

Carolyn Gould (Walker '49) Wadelin of Safety Harbor, Florida passed away on May 10, 2024.

1950s

Frederick Bates '53 of Evanston, Illinois passed away on May 24, 2024.

Grace (Williamson '55) Eckley of Des Moines, Iowa passed away on May 4, 2024.

Mary (Howell '55) Friend of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on January 25, 2024.

Phillip Gehm '54 of Alliance, Ohio passed away on January 29, 2024.

W. Eldon Kropf '59 of Canton, Ohio passed away on February 22, 2024.

Evelyn (Paris '58) Milicia of The Villages, Florida passed away on May 5, 2024.

Ray Orlando '57 of Alliance, Ohio passed away on April 7, 2024.

William Ryan '55 of Ontario, Canada passed away on February 24, 2024.

Lowell Walker '58 of Strongsville, Ohio passed away on February 14, 2024.

David Maxwell '65 of Louisville, Ohio passed away on January 22, 2024.

James Morgan '64 of Geneseo, New York passed away on May 19, 2024.

Loretta Sniarowski '69 of West Chester, Ohio passed away on September 21, 2023.

Janet (Gligor '61) Windmeier of Anoka, Minnesota passed away on January 22, 2024.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni and Friends,

Another semester and school year have been completed, and summer break is here. Hopefully, Raiders of all ages are enjoying some summer relaxation!

As soon as the calendar turns to August, a different mindset appears. Maybe it's because, as a teacher, I've never "not" had a back-to-school fall. It's a fresh start on new goals and new experiences. New Raiders – the Class of 2028 – will start their college journeys. Returning students will be reunited with lifelong friends and embrace new schedules with challenging courses. Staff and faculty will be ready to greet them on a beautiful campus.

I hope your memories of returning to campus remind you of how important this place is to you. Consider supporting those students who are now where you were "back in the day." Get back to campus if you can and support our Raiders – Alumni Weekend, Homecoming, and Family Day is October 11-13! If not, make a gift that could impact a student or project that needs you.

As I pass the Alumni Association president's gavel to my good friend Nick Walker '11, I am thankful to have served and represented you as president. I am proud to support the place that helped make me who I am today and will continue to as the campus evolves. I can't wait to see what's next for our Purple Raiders!

Jen (Thurin '03) Slack
Alumni Association President



1960s

Julie (Beeghly '62) Adams of Newport, Rhode Island passed away on May 15, 2024.

David Bracken '61 of Hartsville, Ohio passed away on April 19, 2024.

Raymond Davis '62 of Mamaroneck, New York passed away on January 23, 2024.

Mark Hawkins '67 of Dublin, Ohio passed away on June 6, 2024.

Mona (Brunie '67) Henderson of Alliance, Ohio passed away on April 30, 2024.

Betty (Reid '60) Hess of Ooltewah, Tennessee passed away on February 28, 2024. She is survived by her husband, Alden Hess '62 and children Ellyn (Hess '88) Celeste, Gayle (Hess '91) Lodato, and Scott Hess. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

JoAnn (Jackson '67) Hicker-son of Alliance, Ohio passed away on April 18, 2024.

1970s

Denny Sabol '74 of Mantua, Ohio passed away on March 14, 2024.

1990s

Scott Johnson '95 of Athens, Ohio passed away on February 8, 2024.

2000s

Robert McIntosh '07 of Scio, Ohio passed away on March 8, 2024.

2020s

Michael Chavarria '21 of Canton, Ohio passed away on May 22, 2024.

Friends

Erika Bartholomew of Leavittsburg, Ohio passed away on February 21, 2024. She is survived by her children and their significant others Gregory Bartholomew, Thomas Bartholomew and Nassim Mir Mozaffari, and Heidi Bartholomew '92 and Timothy Brown; siblings

and spouses Hildegard and Bill Gemlich and Hartl and Magdolna Speckmaier; sister-in-law Eileen Blaney; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary (Sheedy) Everett of Garland, Texas passed away on February 18, 2024. She attended in the early 1950s.

Gary Farinacci, Sr. of Char-don, Ohio passed away on January 2, 2024. He attended in the mid-1960s.

Thomas Gates of Burnsville, North Carolina passed away on April 4, 2024. He attended in the early 1960s.

Dorothy Uldine King of Alliance, Ohio passed away on April 27, 2024. She is survived by her children and spouses, Cynthia and Michael Hawkins, Gill and Leisa King, and Gregory '89 and Callie (Livengood '09) King; Nancy Oliver, who she often referred to as a daughter; siblings Ruby Turner and Finley Smith; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Sally (Zuck) McBain of The Dalles, Oregon passed away on April 28, 2024. She attended in the early 1960s.

Shawn Pinkerton of Salem, Ohio passed away on January 27, 2024. He attended in the late 1990s.

Harry Poston, husband of Nancy (Conners '73) Poston, of Columbus, Ohio passed away on March 13, 2024. Nancy and Harry were married for 50 years.

Donna Riha of Nampa, Idaho passed away on February 12, 2024. She attended in the mid-1960s.

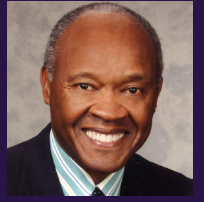
Leo Smith of Traverse City, Michigan passed away on March 8, 2024. He attended in the late 1950s.

Diane Weaver of Barberton, Ohio passed away on April 2, 2024. She attended in the late 1950s.

Christine Weber of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina passed away on January 30, 2024. She attended in the mid-1960s.

TRUSTEES

Trustee Emeritus Sylvester Green '64 of Randallstown, Maryland passed away on March 24, 2024. Mr. Green worked for Chubb Group of Insurance and E2Value, Inc., and Green Rolle Consulting, LLC. He served on the Mount Union Alumni Council before joining the Mount Union Board of Trustees in 1983 and serving as chair of the board from 2002 to 2005.



EMPLOYEES

Professor Emeritus Dr. Leonard Epp of Alliance, Ohio passed away on June 19, 2024. Dr. Epp served as a professor of biology at the University for 41 years until his retirement in 2011. He served as both the premedical advisor and chair of the Department of Biology for over 20 years.

Jill Hissom of Youngstown, Ohio, former stockroom coordinator, passed away June 27, 2024. She retired from Mount Union in 2018.

Elizabeth Joyce (Herren '49) Gorby of Alliance, Ohio passed away on May 2, 2024. She served the University as an accompanist with the music program for many years.

Paul Thomas '53 of Tallmadge, Ohio passed away on July 6, 2024. After retiring from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., he served the University part-time, streamlining the institution's purchasing efforts.

YSTARK TWENTY UNDER 40

The 17th annual ystark program – Twenty under 40! – awards class was announced by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Canton Repository. Honorees of this year's class included three University of Mount Union alumni. They were selected based on career acumen, leadership, commitment to the community, volunteerism, and personal and professional achievements.



Laura (Twaddle '11) Albrecht
Dentist and Owner at Albrecht Dental



Scott Lawrence II '12
Vice President Business Banking Officer at Consumers National Bank



Caitie (Shimp '17) Scott
Director of the Mount Union Fund at the University of Mount Union

LIFELINE FOR GROWTH

DANE RILEY '27 BECOMES
FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE HARR
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



Finance major Dane Riley '27 is the first recipient of the Richard K. and Gale A. Harr Endowed Scholarship. Established by the Veale Foundation in 2022, this award provides a one-year, full-tuition scholarship to a rising sophomore or junior majoring in accounting, finance, or data science/analytics.

“I envision myself as a financial advisor, guiding individuals and families toward financial security and helping them navigate the complexities of personal finance,” Riley wrote in his scholarship application. “But more than that, I want to be a mentor and a source of inspiration, encouraging others to pursue their goals and dreams with confidence and purpose.

“I want to help others because I believe that being kind and understanding can change lives,” he continued. “Seeing people struggle without financial guidance motivates me to make a difference. It’s not just a job – it’s about doing what I believe in. By guiding and inspiring others, I hope to help them achieve their dreams and make a difference in their communities.”

In short, Riley has learned through his studies at Mount Union that finance is not just about dollars and cents, but rather about empowering individuals to achieve financial stability and, in turn, their overall wellbeing.

According to Riley, receiving this scholarship has been transformative for his family, alleviating a tremendous financial burden and providing much-needed peace of mind. “[This scholarship] is a lifeline that [enables] me to continue my journey of self-discovery and growth at Mount Union, where I’ve found a community that nurtures and supports my aspirations,” Riley wrote.

Beyond the classroom, Riley has been involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, including the Investment Team, Lifting Club, and track and field team – experiences he credits with shaping his personal and professional development.

The Veale Foundation was established in 1964 by Harriett and Tinkham Veale to improve the quality of life for the residents primarily located in Northeastern Ohio. To fulfill this mission, The Veale Foundation is committed to supporting charitable causes involved in education, human and social services, civic and community life, and healthcare. After retiring from a successful career in finance, most recently at HTV Industries of Pepper Pike, Richard Harr '75 served as a trustee of the Veale Foundation for several years.

“Rich was an important and valued team member, and we are proud to provide this scholarship in memory of him and in honor of Gale (Roberts '77) to make a meaningful impact on students at Mount Union,” said Daniel Harrington, chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. “We hope that the scholarship will have as much of an impact on the University of Mount Union as Rich had on the foundation. Our trustees believe that the gift will allow Mount Union to attract and maintain students of Rich Harr’s caliber who will have a positive influence on the local community and world.”

“I am honored to have received this scholarship and hope that I can live up to Mr. Harr’s legacy,” Riley wrote. “I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and hope to one day give back to the community, just as you have generously invested in me.”

PAYING IT FOWARD

ROGER '61 AND PATTY CLAY MAKE THE MOUNT UNION DREAM A REALITY

Roger '61 and Patty Clay have built a life rooted in faith, family, hard work, and service to others. Roger's loyal service to Mount Union's Board of Trustees for over nearly 30 years and the Clay's generous support of Mount Union has helped pave the way to campus for many Purple Raiders.

Born in Scottsville, Kentucky, Roger and his family moved to Hartville when he was just two years old. He grew up alongside his brother and graduated from Hartville High School in 1957.

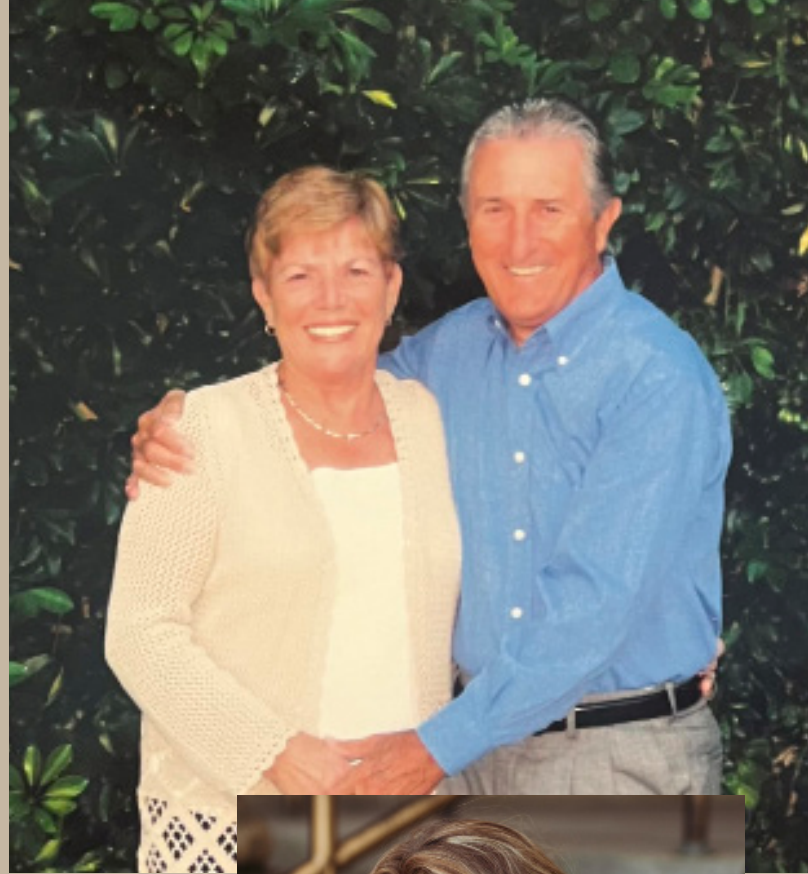
Drawn to Mount Union by the campus community and church affiliation, as well as the recommendation of a former high school basketball teammate and mentor, Roger found his place. "After visiting three colleges, I decided on Mount Union," Roger recalled. "I also received a grant, which made it financially feasible."

Initially pursuing pre-engineering as a major, Roger switched his focus to chemistry. "I didn't like all that math," he joked. His major in chemistry led him to a position as a research chemist at Lubrizol Corp. in Wickliffe, Ohio. But after three years, the opportunity to return to the family business beckoned. In 1972, Roger and Patty started a new Uniform Rental and Linen Supply business in North Canton, Ohio. Just recently, they sold this business after owning and operating it for 50 years.

Throughout their lives, the Clays never forgot the value of education and the opportunities it provided. When a close friend invited Roger to join the Board of Trustees at Mount Union, he accepted and embraced the chance to give back. "If I was going to be part of the governing body, I thought I needed to help financially," he said.

In 2018, the Clays established the Roger and Patricia Clay Endowed Scholarship designed to support students who mirrored Roger's own background – first-generation college students from working-class families. "We wanted our scholarship to reflect my profile," Roger explained. "We asked that it be awarded to a Lake High School graduate with an approximate 3.5 GPA, involved in school activities, and, if possible, the first in their family to go to college."

Recently, the Clays were able to meet their current scholarship recipient, Elizabeth Higginbotham '26, and her mother



*Above: Patty and
Roger '61 Clay*

*Left: Elizabeth
Higginbotham '26*



over lunch. Elizabeth and her mother expressed their deep appreciation for the Clay's thoughtful generosity.

Like Roger, Elizabeth grew up in Hartville and was also inspired by students who graduated before her and went on to Mount Union. "The first time I visited, the campus really caught my eye," she said. "I knew this is where I wanted my new journey to begin."

Like many students, Elizabeth faced financial hurdles that threatened to overshadow her dream of attending Mount Union. The Clay's scholarship support helped make that dream a reality.

"When I received my scholarship and aid package, I felt so relieved. What an incredible feeling to be able to relax and not worry about finding the money to get a college degree," said Elizabeth. "I am blessed and grateful that there are people out there like Roger and Patty who are willing to help others."



mountunion.edu

1972 Clark Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601



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