

FALL 2022

THE
UNIVERSITY OF
AKRON
MAGAZINE

PARTNERS IN PURPOSE:

*The University and the
City of Akron Rise Together*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I love that The University of Akron has its home in an urban community. In considering our place in that community, I often think about UA's Polsky Building, one of the iconic symbols of our city.

If one were to put a pin in the lobby of this historic structure and imagine lines radiating two miles in any direction, one would encounter nearly every challenge and opportunity currently facing our nation's urban communities.

From housing to public education, and from arts and culture to the environment, the Polsky Building—and by extension the University—is at the epicenter of it all.

As a public urban research university, UA is forging new partnerships and enhancing collaborations that are already in place to strengthen our community.

In this issue of The University of Akron Magazine, we take a look at how we are making good on our promises to the City and the Greater Akron region.

Inside, you will find stories about the University's partnership with Akron Public Schools, and the [Un]class

programs that are part of our EX[L] Center that support, expand and create opportunities for UA students and faculty to engage in the city around them.

We share an update about community business partner Lighter Than Air's Akron Airdock facility, where dozens of UA alumni and students are at the front line of advancing the airship industry.

And we take a look at our Homecoming and Family Weekend celebrations that brought together UA graduates and Akron community members to celebrate the Zips.



Given those contemporary connections and deep historic ties between UA and the City, Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan and I are committed to working together with uncommon collaboration.

Earlier this year, we put into place a permanent joint working group to explore collaborative efforts in areas that include economic development, planning and zoning safety, recruiting and retaining city residents.

A number of current and emeriti UA faculty are also involved in the planning of Akron's bicentennial celebration in 2025 as members of the mayoral appointees to the Akron Bicentennial Commission.

There is more community collaboration on the horizon. In 2023, Akron Children's Hospital will open on the UA campus a new sports injury evaluation and treatment facility to serve our student-athletes, the entire campus and the community at large. It is incredibly exciting to partner in this way with one of the nation's premier health care organizations.

There are plans for the Polsky Building too, thanks to a Knight Foundation investment.

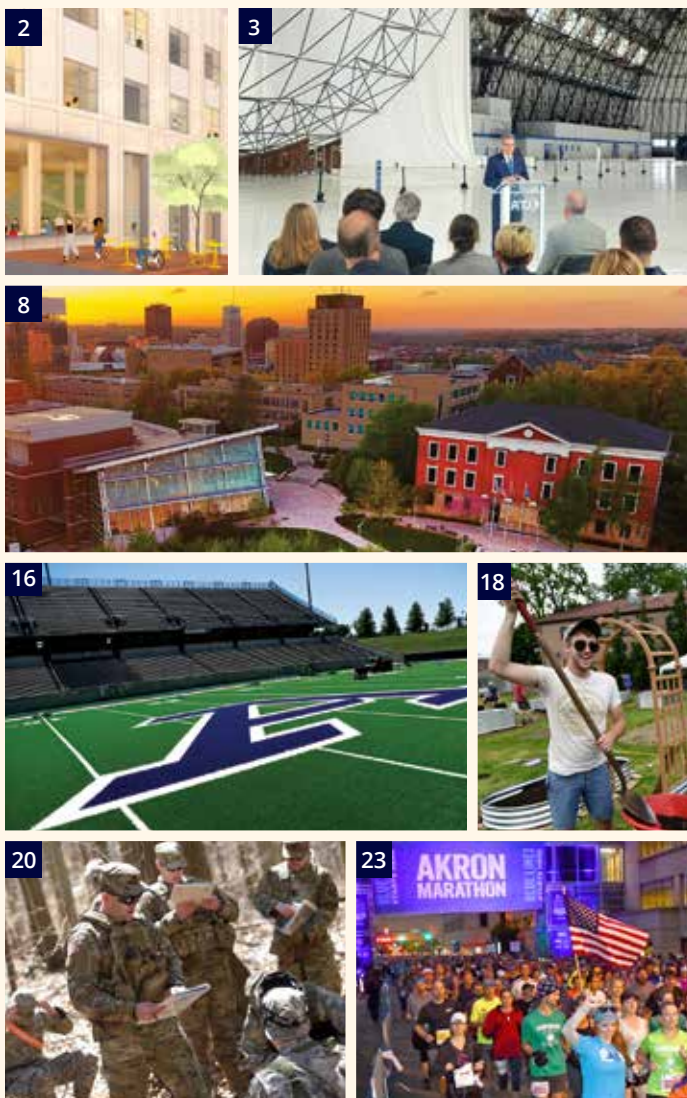
As I have said on a number of occasions, the City of Akron and The University of Akron are inextricably linked. Through the collaborations and partnerships already in place and those we are building now, both entities will rise together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary L. Miller
President

“*The Polsky Building—and by extension the University—is at the epicenter of it all.*”

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON MAGAZINE



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KNIGHT FOUNDATION COMMITS \$20 MILLION TO UA FOR *Arts Transformation*

Polsky Building will, once again, serve as community hub

As The University of Akron (UA) strengthens its commitment to the development of the arts within the academic community and through outreach to the Greater Akron community, it will be aided by a \$20 million investment from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Funds from the grant will help transform UA's Polsky Building into a downtown arts and academic destination.

"The University of Akron is deeply grateful to the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for a legacy of visionary investments in public spaces and civic initiatives in Akron," said President Gary L. Miller. "Their commitment to creating unique ways for people to connect, learn and grow together as communities is at the core of this support."

Miller noted that the Knight Foundation's significant commitment will advance the University's legacy by supporting a "reimagining" of how an urban university and its city work together to create community and economic prosperity.

This will be accomplished through new configurations of architecture, technology and programming in the downtown space.

Drawing People Downtown

Built in the 1930s, the Polsky Building is a former department store that was known as a premier downtown shopping destination for many years—but it was also a gathering place where the community came together. It has been owned and operated, for educational purposes, by The University of Akron since 1987.

It is adjacent to Lock 3 Park, the Akron Civic Theatre, the Knight Stage and a revitalized Main Street corridor, all of which have greatly contributed to Akron's ongoing improvements. The Knight Foundation has been an active, anchor investor in that revitalization.

The \$20 million investment from Knight will be used by the University to open the interior of the building to invite people into a new and dynamic space. The funds will create space for entrepreneurship, community collaboration, artistic performances and learning. And the building will be fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Harnessing Power

"The redesigned building will align directly with our strategy to reorient campus toward downtown, significantly increasing our relationship with the City," said Miller.

"The historical vibrancy and entrepreneurship of this City's quiet power is harnessed for this revitalization," he continued. "To best reflect the purpose of the building, advance UA's AkronArts initiative and honor the mission of the Knight Foundation and the deep dedication it has to our City and region, The University of Akron will rename the building for the Knight Foundation to signal the transformational change in the City."

Kyle Kutuchief, director of Knight's program in Akron, said the investment will transform a "dormant building into a vibrant gateway that opens the University to Main Street."

As a UA graduate, Kutuchief has seen firsthand how the school is committed to the community. "The new building, named after the Foundation, will be yet another step in reinvigorating Akron, becoming a great civic asset for downtown and fostering more collaboration between the University and residents." ■



BUILDING A BETTER BLIMP

Alumni pivotal in development of new airships in Akron

For most residents of Akron, seeing a Goodyear Blimp coasting over the City or hovering over a Super Bowl game elicits a sense of pride. The sight is an iconic piece of Akron history.

In 1929, the Goodyear Zeppelin Co. constructed an airdock in the City to build and house large-scale airships, mainly for military use. The blimps quickly became connected with Akron's identity. But as the years passed, the blimps no longer served a practical purpose—until recently.

With the assistance of University of Akron (UA) alumni and researchers, Lighter Than Air (LTA)—an aerospace research and development company—is using the historic Akron Airdock as home base for developing state-of-the-art, electric-powered zero emission airships.

These new blimps will be able to deliver humanitarian aid, reduce carbon emissions normally associated with aircraft and grow local economies.



“**THIS EXCITING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LTA AND OUR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND POLYMER SCIENCE UNDERSCORES UA'S REPUTATION AS A PUBLIC URBAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.**”

Gary L. Miller, President

Zip Ties

Dan Gutwein, who graduated from UA in 2018 with a degree in aerospace systems engineering, now leads a team at LTA that oversees structural design and manufacturing of manned airships. For the past four years, he has been responsible for engineering, manufacturing and production management of the airships.

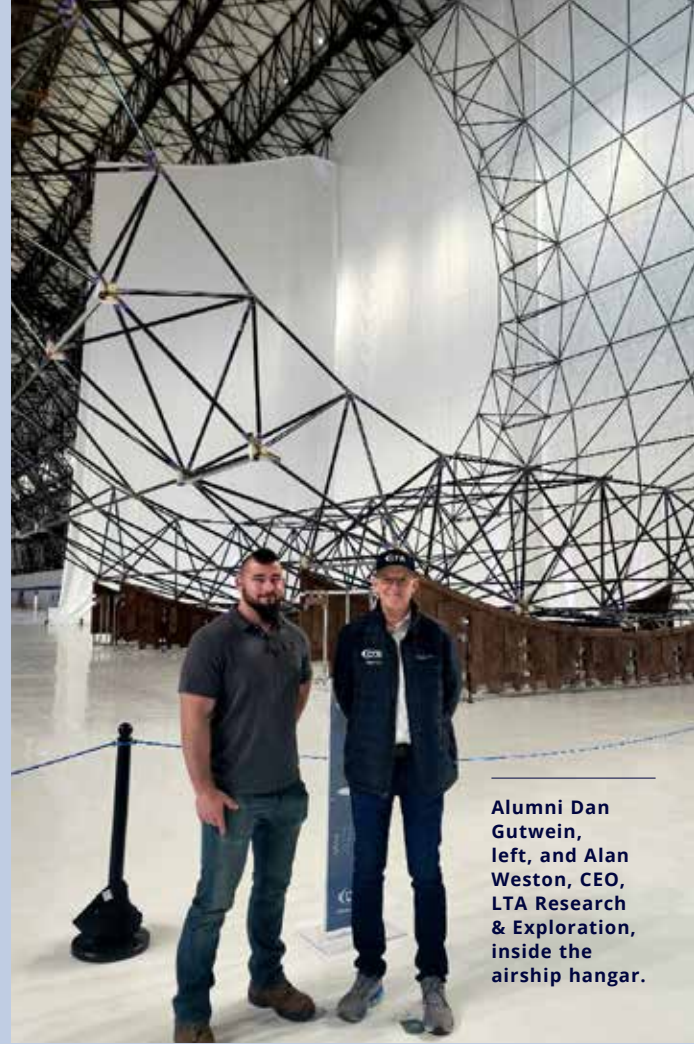
And it all began with an internship.

As an LTA intern, Gutwein worked on a team with six other students from the College of Engineering and Polymer Science who were responsible for the design and operation of a small-scale unmanned airship.

When the company expanded operations to Akron, Gutwein received an offer for full-time employment just as he was graduating—the first UA alumnus to be hired at LTA.

He is proud to be reviving this legacy of aviation. “I was born and raised in Akron, so it's really exciting to be a part of this project and work in the airdock that's such a historic landmark,” said Gutwein. “To see all the energy and excitement come back to Akron, it's humbling to say I am a part of it.”

Gutwein added that Ohio has always been a leader in manufacturing and “now we can show the world that is still the case.”



Alumni Dan Gutwein, left, and Alan Weston, CEO, LTA Research & Exploration, inside the airship hangar.

A Boost for the Region

“This exciting partnership between LTA and our College of Engineering and Polymer Science underscores UA's reputation as a public urban research university,” said UA President Gary L. Miller.

“Our students, representing such engineering disciplines as aerospace, mechanical and electrical, are being afforded skill-enhancing and experiential learning opportunities they could not have received anywhere else.”

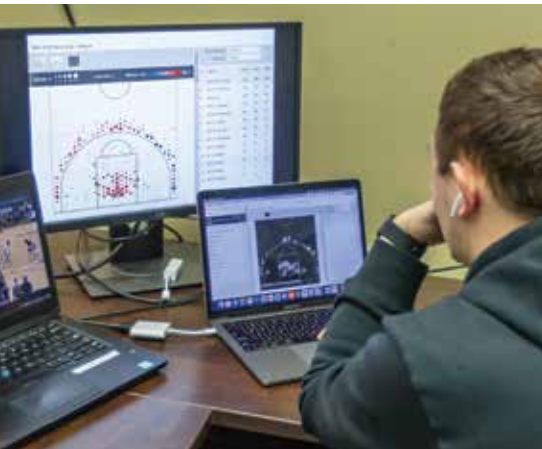
The investment from LTA into the Akron community means potentially hundreds of new jobs for UA engineering graduates and will significantly bolster the region's economy.

And thanks to its contributions, the University is uniquely situated to, once again, be on the forefront of innovation in a city that has long been a leader in airship aviation technology. ■

NEW *Programs and People* KEEP UA ON CUTTING EDGE

THE WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS

By adding two new undergraduate degree programs in sport analytics and sport business in fall 2022, UA's College of Business continues its legacy of helping students to be career ready and connected in all areas of the corporate world. Both programs are housed in the College's Department of Management.



The Bachelor of Science in Sport Analytics is a unique program that was developed with direct input from analytics experts and data scientists with nationally known sport organizations. The degree will provide students with a focused foundation in math, statistics, computer programming and business, thereby allowing them to compete for and attain analytics-focused jobs across the sport industry.

Jon Nichols, vice president of basketball strategy and personnel with the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, said that the combination of traditional sport management courses with technical classes that prepare students for all aspects of working in the sport analytics field is a "unique and distinctive component."

The other new degree—the Bachelor of Business Administration in Sport Business—provides a strong foundation in the core areas of business, along with experience in applying business concepts in sport-specific settings.

"The University of Akron's B.B.A. in Sport Business is distinctive based on its home in the College of Business," said Matthew Juravich, associate professor of management. "This allows our students direct access to the resources of an AACSB-accredited business school, along with expert faculty and unique relationships with sport organizations across the region."

This degree program allows students to focus on business concepts in the world of sport, including financial issues, sales and leadership. Students will be well prepared to work in areas such as management, administration, sales, marketing, licensing/branding and facilities operations, among others. ■

Learn more at uakron.edu/cba/#sport

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

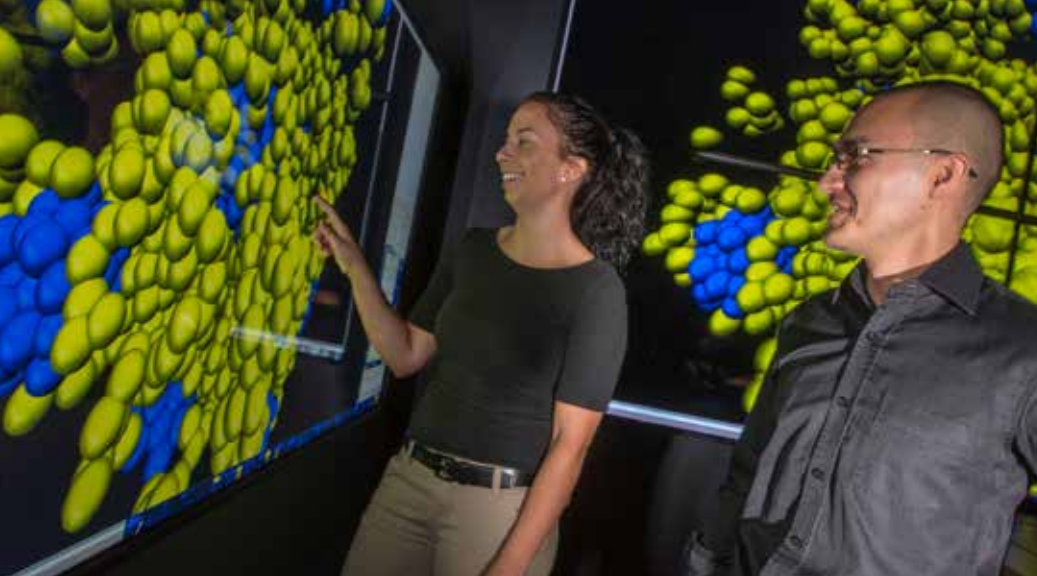
As the nationwide physician shortage continues, nurse practitioners are helping to fill the gap. In response to this need, UA has transitioned its Nurse Anesthesia program to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, starting with its June 2022 cohort. These 38 doctoral students are set to graduate in May 2025.

The three-year program prepares Intensive Care Registered Nurses to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Successful completion of the program leads to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Combining online coursework with in-person simulation and labs, the program will prepare nurses to provide anesthetic care for patients undergoing surgical and obstetrical procedures, and provide pain relief in various health care settings.



Learn more at uakron.edu/nursing



POLYMER SCIENCE EXPANDS OFFERING TO UNDERGRADS

In another innovative move, UA has become the first public university in Ohio to offer an undergraduate degree in polymer science and polymer engineering, thereby expanding the number of students who will be prepared to work in this growing field.

The Bachelor of Science in Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering degree program began in the fall 2022 semester. Previously, such polymer degrees at UA were offered only to master's and doctoral students.

The program is ideal for students interested in technical solutions to sustainability, materials science, processing, soft-matter physics and biomaterials. ■

Learn more at uakron.edu/polymer/programs/

MEET SUZANNE BAUSCH, LEADER IN RESEARCH

Dr. Suzanne Bausch, who joined UA as vice president for research and business engagement and dean of the graduate school on Aug. 1, is a nationally recognized leader in the field of research.



In her role, Bausch serves as the University's chief research officer and is responsible for growing the research enterprise. This includes everything from grants, contracts and sponsored programs to intellectual property administration, patent marketing and licensing.

She also is building relationships between the business community and the UA research enterprise as head of the University of Akron Research Foundation. She also provides general academic supervision of graduate education within the University.

Welcome NEW TRUSTEES

On July 15, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Michael Saxon '83 and Thomas Waltermire to serve on The University of Akron Board of Trustees. Saxon began a nine-year term. He is retired after serving as president of U.S. Commercial lines and global COO at AmTrust Financial. Waltermire is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Avient Corporation (formerly PolyOne).

"UA is honored to have two experienced individuals join the Board and share their expertise with our leadership team," said Joseph M. Gingo, '71, Board chair. "We are especially pleased that they are both from the Greater Akron area and have a keen understanding of the community in which we live and learn."



In addition, Luke D. Smith was appointed to serve as a Student Trustee for UA's Board of Trustees. He is a sophomore pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Intelligence Analysis and a member of the Drs. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Honors College. Smith is enrolled in the Honors to Law program, an early pathway for aspiring lawyers. ■

Pictured far left to right: Michael Saxon, Thomas Waltermire and Luke Smith.

INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP *Advancement* REACHES 10-YEAR MARK

BY KATELYNNE WILLIS

One Student's Inspiring Story

When Elia Meltzer arrived at The University of Akron (UA), she was excited to join the Emerging Leaders Living-Learning Community, a group focused on leadership development, civic engagement and self-discovery. She also looked forward to participating in the Zips for Haiti student organization and having the opportunity to visit the country.

She soon got involved with an innovative program, the College of Business Institute for Leadership Advancement (ILA). The program—first funded in 2011 by a significant gift and commitment of support from The J. M. Smucker Company—provided her a new path.

ILA students are placed into cohorts and participate in workshops that provide real-world knowledge while facilitating professional connections. They come out prepared to lead at any level of an organization.

Level 1 of the program focuses on personal mastery and ethics, while Level 2 emphasizes team and interpersonal development. Meltzer completed both by the end of her sophomore year. Soon after, Meltzer began journaling about her future plans, a process she had adopted to stay on track in other areas of her life.

Launching Her Business

Due to a history of severe depression, panic disorder and complex posttraumatic stress disorder, Meltzer had trouble expressing her feelings to her doctors. But she learned through journaling how to keep track of everything from her moods, appetite and exercise levels to changes in

weather. The process allowed Meltzer to communicate potential triggers that would create depressive mood swings.

Wanting to help other people with similar challenges, she began developing a business idea for a planner. The funds she received from a micro-grant and a winning social media pitch competition helped Meltzer take the first steps in launching Chartam LLC.

The skills she learned in Level 3 of the ILA program, known as the Leadership Experience Project, gave her an additional edge, as did assistance from School of Art graphic design students Jacob Scott

and Elysia Fornaro. Through winning other competitions, Meltzer was able to purchase marketing software tools and photography



while setting aside funds to print her first batch of planners.

Meltzer then entered Stark Tank, a program to inspire and develop an entrepreneurial mindset in local college students. Out of 300 entries, Meltzer placed third.

Meltzer graduated in May 2022 and her planner is in the final stages of completion. "If I had to do it all over again, I'd still choose The University of Akron," she said. "Stepping foot on UA's campus was the start to the rest of my life." ■

"If I had to do it all over again, I'd still choose The University of Akron. Stepping foot on UA's campus was the start to the rest of my life."

ELIA MELTZER



Hail to the Chief PAUL LEVY CHANGES ROLES

Dr. Paul Levy was recently named vice president and chief of staff, replacing Wayne Hill who retired after more than 10 years with the University. Hill served as chief of staff during President Gary L. Miller's first two years at UA.

A respected member of the UA community for more than 33 years, Levy previously served as chair of the Department of Psychology and professor of industrial/organizational psychology. He was also associate director of the Center for Organizational Research and a Fellow in the Institute for Lifespan Development and Gerontology.

"The University is extremely fortunate to have someone as accomplished and trusted as Paul to step into this very important role," said Miller. "Throughout my time here he has offered wise advice to me and my leadership team on a wide array of issues."

Now Streaming ZIPS ON THE COLLEGE TOUR

No one can tell the story of UA better than the students who call it home. Now, viewers anywhere in the world will have the opportunity to see UA through the lens of 10 diverse undergraduate students, thanks to The College Tour TV series.

This Emmy-nominated program, hosted by storyteller Alex Boylan, provides an inside look at college campuses across the country. The show is available to stream on many platforms, including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Google TV and others. The UA segment is also available on the University's website.

The following UA students each share authentic stories in their own words:



Shareef Awadallah: Green, Ohio
Career Ready and Connected

Janay Bass: Akron, Ohio
Akron Athletics

Andrew Beigner: Buffalo, NY
Health and Human Sciences

Brooke Campbell: Akron, Ohio
Williams Honors College

Jose Garcia: Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Student Organizations and Leadership

Tyrone Johnson: Columbus, Ohio
Student Support and Wellness

Cecilia Mainzer: Hinckley, Ohio
Superior in STEM

Alex Paxitzis: Dayton, Ohio
Life in Akron

Owen Pinion: Akron, Ohio
WZIP and ZTV

Larry White: Howland, Ohio
Dance and the Fine Arts

UA LEADERS AMONG 30 for the Future

UA's young professionals continue to wow the surrounding community. In September, the Akron Chamber of Commerce recognized 30 young professionals for making a difference in the community and beyond. Among the group were Alison Doehring, '07, '08, '10, director of ZipAssist and Elyse Ball, executive director of the University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF).

While at UA, Doehring has led the development of serveAkron, the University's formal civic engagement office, which has received national accolades from USA Today for Make a Difference Day.

Currently, Doehring leads ZipAssist, the University's student advocacy and support office, that serves as a hub for resources and assistance to help students be successful.

Along with her role as executive director at the University of Akron Research Foundation, Elyse Ball leads the National Science Foundation I-Corps

program, through which 400 people have learned about methods for launching a startup.

Ball has initiated the creation of a \$500,000 UARF "Spark Fund" to invest in helping technologies create the proof needed to launch scalable startups.

She is also involved in coaching faculty, students and area entrepreneurs on technology commercialization.

"Impressive talent within our businesses and a strong talent pipeline in our region represent a key component to Greater Akron's current and future vibrancy and success," said Steve Millard, Greater Akron Chamber president and CEO, in a statement. ■



PARTNERS IN PURPOSE

*University and City
Rise Together*

BY JANET CHISMAR HARDIE '92



What's in a Name?

Local historians tell us that the City of Akron, like Rome, was built on seven hills. It seems fitting, then, that the university bearing its name also has a hill story.

Founded in 1870 by the Ohio Universalist Convention, Buchtel College sat atop a 2.6-acre hilltop near the center of town. The fledging college was strongly influenced by the efforts, energy and financial support of Akronites, particularly industrialist John R. Buchtel.

From the outset, the College and the surrounding community were closely tied, with local entrepreneurs assisting the new institution and the College addressing the needs of the region.

By 1913, Buchtel College Trustees transferred the institution and its assets to the City of Akron.

For the next 50 years, the municipal University of Akron, assisted by local tax funds, brought college education within the reach of many young people. Then, in 1967, The University of Akron (UA) became one of Ohio's state universities. Access to state funding enabled continued growth not possible for a municipal university. But the strong partnership remained—and it flourishes to this day.

The City and the University continue to grow together both geographically—with the expansion of campus into downtown—and ideologically with a shared vision of improving the community.

And it all starts in the classroom.

Meet the Sisters

You need not look any further than Akron Public Schools (APS) to find an example of a strong partnership: administrators often describe the relationship between APS and UA as “robust.” In fact, UA has three “sister schools”—two of which are located on its campus.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) STEM High School found a home in the former Central Hower High School building. Because it is a lottery school, students represent a diverse cross section of the city.

To give them a taste of college life and get them interested in becoming Zips, UA faculty often create experiential opportunities that allow these students to walk through labs on campus or check out the Rec Center. No wonder, then, that a high number of NIHF students choose to continue their education at UA after graduation.

The other on-campus sister school, Akron Early College High School, is located inside the Polsky Building. Students who want to attend first must take the initiative to fill out an application while they are in 8th grade. If accepted, they have the potential to earn an associate degree from UA simultaneously with their high school diploma.

UA also has a sister relationship with Ellet High School; most of the students who attend live in that neighborhood, and a high number of the students who do choose to go to college, choose UA.

A Three-Pronged Approach

To engage with each school, the University uses three engagement strategies. First, a professor may help a high school teacher in designing curriculum that allows their students to investigate career options. The classes will then visit UA to interact with campus professionals in various roles.

They might tour UA's computer center to see what a career in IT looks like. They might explore HVAC facilities or use a drone. Or, UA athletics marketing staff may walk students through James A. Rhodes arena, explaining how to create a contract with an advertiser.



The next area of engagement involves professional development for APS teachers. You'll often see teachers working with UA's LeBron James Family Foundation School of Education to learn the newest instructional strategies to advance their careers.

The third category involves supporting students' families. At the high school level, that means helping with college applications or with filling out the FAFSA, which can be

daunting for a first-generation college student. Staff from UA Admissions and Financial Aid teams often sit down with families one-on-one to take the fear out of completing forms.



work alongside a particular school that asks for help creating a specific experience.

For example, teachers at nearby Miller South, a middle school for the visual and performing arts, noticed that

Impacting the District

The School of Education, by nature, reaches beyond UA's sister schools to impact the entirety of the APS district. Many UA education majors complete either observation or student teaching in one of the various Akron schools.

The School of Education may also



some students lacked interest in math. In response, faculty in the Myers School of Art created modules to show how mathematics is represented in the arts—things like using measurements and chemistry to create paints or pointing out patterns and repetition in famous works of art.

“The University of Akron is deeply rooted in our communities and we are more robust and unique because of our diverse services and partnerships,” noted President Gary L. Miller in a recent address. “And there is no better place to begin than with our schools.” ■

LIVING UP TO OUR PROMISES

Meet Dr. Steve McKellips

As vice provost for enrollment management, Dr. Stephen McKellips provides leadership and engages in innovative approaches to enrollment management and decision-making for the areas of admissions/recruitment, financial aid services and enrollment.



“Basically, what I am trying to do at the enrollment level, is live up to what the recruitment office said would happen when we told students this is the best place for them to be,” said McKellips, who joined UA in April 2022.

As it relates to Akron Public Schools (APS) and the City in general, McKellips thinks it is important that the University prioritizes its relationship with both. “We’re their neighbor and a substantial presence in Akron.”

If APS represents the heartbeat of the community and its future, then “we at UA have to function like its [APS] success plays an integral role in our success. We cannot accomplish our goals without them, nor can they be wholly successful without us.”

McKellips concluded, “We must connect with the City's identity and incorporate APS into ours. You don't have to be a student to be part of the community of scholars here at UA.”



ONE TEACHER'S “Early” SUCCESS STORY

Her start in life wasn't easy: death, addiction and abuse clouded her life at an early age. But after emancipating from the Summit County foster care system, Felica Ross enrolled at Akron Early College High School (AECHS) where she earned an associate degree, along with her high school diploma, in 2012.

Ross went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education and recently completed a master's degree in English at UA in August 2022.

Now she works as an English/Language Arts (ELA) teacher at the school—the first alumna from Akron Early College to come on board.

In recalling her journey to success, Ross said she enrolled in AECHS to establish stability in her life. “Graduating high school with my associate degree was the most secure way I could think of to guarantee my way out of severe poverty,” Ross explained. “By having a degree when I turned 18, I was able to apply for Section 8 housing and food stamps and secure a better job that offered health insurance.”

Giving Back

In her new role as an Akron Early College teacher, Ross understands the stresses and anxiety that her students face. She's able to reassure them that she had the same fears and struggles—and offer coping mechanisms.

“Some of the kids come in every day so overwhelmed and they are looking for that light at the end of the tunnel,” Ross noted. “I remind them that what they are accomplishing will get them out of poverty.”

Ross noted that her own success wasn't just due to hard work. “I was able to do things because I had a teaching staff that literally wrapped themselves around me. Everything that I have ever achieved is because someone else has given me their time, or their help or their care.”



“ SHE BRINGS POSITIVITY WITH HER EVERY DAY AND SHARES IT WITH HER STUDENTS AND FELLOW COLLEAGUES.”

Thomas O'Neil
AECHS Principal

The Principal's Perspective

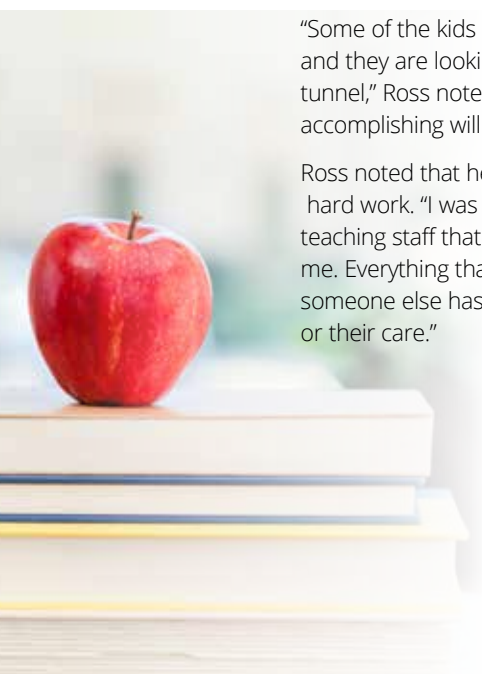
Thomas O'Neil, the current AECHS principal, remembers having Ross as a student in his 10th grade ELA class in 2009—his first year teaching at the school. “What stands out to me about Felica, and always has, is her optimism. She brings positivity with her every day and shares it with her students and fellow colleagues.”

According to O'Neil, Ross is a living, breathing example of what the program is all about: “She has such a wonderful story to share with many of our students who have some of the same obstacles. She is now giving the same support to students she received when she was a student here.”

Why it Works

Kelly Herold, director of educational outreach at UA, pointed out that the Early College model works because the University provides a personalized educational plan that complements with their high school schedule, has strong support systems built in, is completely tuition-free and shortens the time to complete a degree.

Partnerships and people who care “can make all the difference in the lives of local students,” Herold added. ■



Goodyear Partners WITH UA TO DRIVE OPPORTUNITY

*Scholarship puts students
in the driver's seat*

For twin brothers Brandon and Braxton Moore of Bedford, Ohio, interning with the UI/UX Digital Platform Engineering team at Goodyear headquarters was an experience second to none. And it wouldn't have been possible without a program designed to increase job readiness training for underserved students called The Goodyear Driving Opportunity Scholars Program.

In June of 2021, the Goodyear Foundation (Goodyear) committed \$1.6 million to The University of Akron (UA) to provide full scholarships for a group of freshmen representing a wide range of underrepresented communities in the workplace. Students must come from a family facing socioeconomic challenges or be the first member to attend college.

After being accepted into the program, scholars are enrolled in a training program that pairs them with a Goodyear mentor who assists students with career planning and networking. They each complete a capstone project, participate in a study abroad program or a service-learning experience, and receive a laptop.

The Moore brothers were part of the first class of scholars that entered UA in 2021.

"My internship experience has given me insight on what a real-world job feels like," said Brandon, who is a computer science-systems major. "The scholarship has also provided me an opportunity to meet people like the CEO of Goodyear, Rich Kramer. On top of this, every single person at The University of Akron that is associated with the scholarship has gone above and beyond."

Braxton, also a computer science-systems major, said he was shocked and very grateful when he discovered the perks and benefits of having this scholarship. "I have met people and made relationships with them that will last far longer than my college years."

Professionals Who Treat Interns Like Family

While interning at Goodyear, Braxton discovered he was surrounded by like-minded people: "It was the Goodyear experience." He also expressed appreciation for the team at UA, "who help me more than I realize sometimes. It's like being part of a family."

Hailing from Brookfield, Wis., scholar Destyn Lee said his experience with the scholarship is one of the best things to ever happen to him. "Not only are you given lots of support on whatever troubles you're facing inside and outside of college,

but you are also given lots of experiences you wouldn't normally get to have."

Lee, another computer science-systems major, enjoyed touring the Goodyear Headquarters and getting to see the Goodyear Blimp hangar.

During his internship, Lee said he was treated with respect and got to network with many important people. "It's definitely been quite the exciting journey but, of course, it comes with a lot of hard work as well."



Pictured above:
Brandon Moore
and twin brother
Braxton Moore





Shareef Awadallah

Making Connections

Shareef Awadallah, a native of Green, Ohio, and part of the 2021 cohort said, “The program has opened so many doors for me and introduced UA career services connections into my network, allowing me to improve my public speaking and resume skills.”

Pursuing an international business-foreign language degree, Awadallah found his internship “allowed me to put what I’ve learned into action, as I interacted with dozens of Goodyear associates.”

Beyond funding student activities and scholarships, Goodyear supports the program coordination, coaching and mentoring that these students need throughout their UA education.

Emeka Obinnakwelu Jr., UA’s Goodyear Driving Opportunity graduate assistant, and Anand Kathardekar, Goodyear peer mentor, assist the scholars with transitioning from high school to college and developing effective study strategies.

“I am proud of the 2021 cohort for not allowing anyone or anything to block their path toward achieving their goals,” said Obinnakwelu.

Building a Diverse Workforce

Richard J. Kramer, Goodyear chairman, CEO and president, said the company is excited to collaborate with the University to invest in these students’ futures —and in Goodyear’s.

“Inclusive opportunities are needed to build a diverse workforce to help corporations succeed, both today and in the future,” said Kramer. “Driving Opportunity will nurture the growth of underrepresented students as they expand their skills, build a professional network and create a career path.”

UA President Gary L. Miller added, “Goodyear is a dedicated corporate and community partner, and we are deeply grateful for the investments they make in our University.” ■

Learn more at uakron.edu/drivingopportunity

MEET THE NEW CLASS OF SCHOLARS

Five new scholars have joined the ranks of Goodyear Opportunity Scholars in 2022. “Despite only working with the new cohort for a short period of time, I cannot praise the 2022 Goodyear cohort enough,” said program graduate assistant, Emeka Obinnakwelu. “Like the first cohort, these students are an impressive group of young adults. They are motivated, disciplined, curious and goal oriented.”



Melissa Adrion

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Akron, Ohio
High School: Ellet High School



Aaron Booker

Major: Computer Science-Systems
Hometown: Twinsburg, Ohio
High School: Twinsburg High School



CJ (Cailan) James-Smith

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Akron, Ohio
High School: National Inventors Hall of Fame Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) High School



Trenton MacLean

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Akron, Ohio
High School: Firestone High School



Keahn Taylor

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Ravenna, Ohio
High School: Tallmadge High School





HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

2022

Full of tradition and camaraderie, Homecoming is an event that invokes a feeling of nostalgia that can't be matched. But why do we have Homecoming in the first place?

Traditionally, it's a time for alumni to come "home" to campus, visit with old friends and share stories of school days. It began in the early 20th century when universities began to invite their alumni to return for a football game. The activities planned before and after the game were created with the aim of not only building school spirit, but strengthening the homecoming tradition among students and alumni for years to come.



In October, The University of Akron celebrated its 99th Homecoming with a week of events leading up to the football game against Bowling Green State University.

"Homecoming is an annual tradition that is deeply rooted in the fabric of the collegiate experience," said Willy Kollman, '08, '10, assistant vice president, alumni relations, and executive director, The UA

Alumni Association. "It is when campus comes alive with the excitement of fall and football. The trees are decorated with blue and gold ribbons and the sounds of Ohio's Pride echo throughout campus."

Kollman added, "Most importantly, it is a time for our alumni family to come home and reconnect with their alma mater, relive their favorite memories and reunite with old friends."

Discussing the pairing with Family Weekend, Kollman credits Alison Doehring, director of ZipAssist, for overseeing those efforts the past two years: "Ali has brought a new face, more programming, and has continually grown it each and every year under her leadership."

Doehring noted, "Family Weekend is an opportunity for student supporters to visit campus, see the City and learn about all of the wonderful things UA has to offer. Connecting with families is an important part of the Zip culture."

Anna Ball, associate director of ZipAssist, and Parent Board advisor, worked with Doehring in organizing the weekend. "While each program is independently special," Ball explained, "bringing the two together, amplifies the Zips pride on our campus. Having generations of Zips celebrate together, while also instilling pride in future Zips, is what the weekend is all about." ■





1923

THE FIRST HOMECOMING GAME OF RECORD TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1923. THE "ZIPPERS," AS UA WAS CALLED, HOSTED THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER "PRESBYTERIAN STEAMROLLERS," THE FORERUNNER OF THE "FIGHTING SCOTS." Akron lost that game 14-0 before a crowd of 3,500 students, alumni and fans. The game was played at Buchtel Field on the south end of campus between Brown and Kling Streets. One year later, UA would open a brand new 7,000 seat facility in the same footprint, called "Alumni Memorial Stadium."





'A' STANDS FOR AKRON

*New look for Zips Athletics
reflects city connection*

BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

Summer can be a very quiet time on a university campus, particularly in and around athletic facilities as the student-athletes take time off between seasons. But not at The University of Akron. Not this year.

Throughout the summer, the buzz of machinery announced that workers were busy installing new artificial turf at InfoCision Stadium-Summa Field and completely overhauling UA's Lee R. Jackson Track and Field Complex.

Activity hummed inside facilities too, as staff prepared signage and uniforms featuring the new "A" logo that replaced the Zip Athletics traditional "Z"—part of an athletics-wide rebranding initiative.

From 'Z' to 'A'

In a University-wide announcement about the athletic logo, President Gary L. Miller noted the new brand's intentional ties to the community.

"We consider our athletic program to be one of our most important community partnerships," Miller said during his 2022 State of the University address. "[The facilities renovations] will improve the experience not only for the athletes, but also offer some opportunities for the community to enjoy our wonderful facilities."

"This new mark pays homage to the University's heritage and its unbreakable connection with the City of Akron and presents a strong image that reflects our determination to rise and excel," he added.

Director of Athletics Charles Guthrie feels the community will connect with the new athletics logo and mark, which was unveiled in May 2022. The logo was a recommendation that came from the University's Athletics Working Group, which is made up of student-athletes, faculty, staff and community representatives.

A Timely Update

It was a long time coming, Guthrie believes. When he arrived at UA in 2021, there were no fewer than eight versions of the athletics logo in use.

The new design—a bold and distinctive "A" that incorporates the previous "Z"—along with a companion version that incorporates the word "Akron" is the anchor in a comprehensive and unified visual brand identity.

"When you have so many things going on, it doesn't tell who you are," Guthrie said. "We needed to find the true identity of who we are, which is Akron. And the 'A' stands for Akron."



Rising Together

The UA athletics facility improvements are being made possible by \$4.7 million in donor commitments announced earlier in 2022. These donations are part of the University's "We Rise Together—The Campaign for The University of Akron," launched in March of 2020 with a goal of raising \$150 million in new funds.

A key area for the campaign is to "Live up to our promises" and donations to Akron Athletics enable the program to deliver excellence to UA student-athletes.

The new turf was installed during the summer and will benefit both the UA football and lacrosse programs. Guthrie also hopes the improvements will enable UA to host high school football games that can potentially draw thousands of spectators, such as the annual rivalry matchup between Akron schools Archbishop Hoban and St. Vincent-St. Mary. He also expects to continue to host community gatherings such as the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps events.

The track and field complex will be accessible to the campus and public during business hours as it was before the renovation.

"Being able to connect the community to the campus through health and fitness is a great thing for us all," Guthrie said. "We're surrounded by health care facilities and, in the past, doctors and nurses have come up to run on the track. We're hoping the campus as a whole will take advantage of it to walk and run."



Practical Partnerships

A new practice facility for the men's and women's basketball teams, that's expected to come online this winter, will mean increased flexibility for the use of James A. Rhodes Arena, affectionately known as the JAR. The teams will continue to play their home games there, but moving practices to a dedicated facility opens up the 5,500-seat arena as a home for both winter and spring Commencement ceremonies for the foreseeable future.

The Oliver J. Ocasek Natatorium, home to the UA women's swimming and diving program, will feature a new video board that has the potential to draw larger community swimming events.

"We're looking forward to many of these facilities improvements increasing our capability to rent, which drives more revenue to the University," Guthrie said.

Guthrie believes the Akron community will connect with the new facilities and new brand because of the strong historic affinity that many Akronites have for the University.

"The University of Akron is the City. If you look at us as a research institution in the heart of the City, we're just as much of a heartbeat as anything else," he said. "Our reach goes far beyond the campus, the City and even Summit County. There are large numbers of alumni in this area who tell us that the University has educated and opened doors for them, and they have been able to pass on that legacy to the next generation." ■





EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

A Garden Grows for the UA Community

BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

Sure, a garden is a patch of land used for growing vegetables, herbs or flowers. But it's also commonly defined as a place for public gatherings—such as New York's Madison Square Garden.

Here at The University of Akron (UA), both definitions apply.

On the site of a former fraternity house, across from a local church, sits an urban oasis that not only provides fresh produce for students in need, but serves as a gathering place for learning and growing relationships.

Located on the edge of UA's campus, the new Community Garden became a hotbed of activity this summer when Alison Doehring, '07, '08, '10, director of ZipAssist, facilitated an [Un]class called Zips Grow Together.

"An [Un]class is a short-term class for students that is designed to help them learn and hone practical skills—like resilience, creative and innovative thinking, flexibility, teamwork and risk-taking—versus achieving specific topical knowledge," said Dr. Christin L. Seher, co-director of the EX[L] Center for Community Engaged Learning, which is the home of the [Un]class program.



The EX[L] Center, led by Seher and co-director Anoo Vyas, seeks to help students emerge from UA as civically engaged, adaptable leaders who are ready to join in the enterprise of building strong and sustainable communities.

[Un]classes cover a variety of topics. For example, during the fall 2022 semester, the EX[L] Center offered an [Un]class on the topic of human trafficking with the goal of hosting community events to share information about the issue.

Courses are open to community members who may enroll for a reduced fee and learn alongside UA students and faculty. While they don't earn academic credit, community members will receive a certificate of completion.

In the case of Zips Grow Together, students started with a discussion about food insecurity on campus and asked how they could create a space that not only helped provide fresh, affordable produce, but do so in a way that supports the mental health of all students and strengthens the Zips community.

Hoes, Rakes and Shovels

Work to prepare the Community Garden started last summer when students in the [Un]class got to work mixing concrete alongside UA's grounds crew and physical facilities staff. The students hauled dirt and mulch with administrators and staff from academic

disciplines, units and offices they typically wouldn't have interacted with, and were taught by students from the Urban Agriculture club.

Seher said the land on which the garden is located originally belonged to the club, which didn't have the resources to fully develop it. Seher and Doebling knew the space had a lot of potential, and several pieces fell into place that quickly turned the garden into reality.

After the club turned over the land to ZipAssist, an office on campus that serves as a central information hub and provides support and assistance to help students be successful at UA, the [Un]class was developed. Funding for some of the supplies and equipment needed to start the garden were donated by an individual who has been supportive of student services in the past, Doebling said.

Harvesting a Good Crop

There is something poetic about the garden-to-table concept: "Food that is literally grown at UA is given to students who need it through the Campus Cupboard program, which provides non-perishable food and hygiene items to any UA student who is in a financial pinch," said Doebling.

The first crops, including sweet cherry tomatoes, were harvested and went to the Campus Cupboard just as students returned to campus for fall semester

"But the garden is about more than just food," Doebling explained. For example, the Department of Biology will be installing four raised beds so students can study how bees interact with pollinator flowers. They also installed two beehives in the garden that will be used for research. And students from Myers School of Art will be creating a series of signs for the space.

Even now, work on the garden continues with the help of an army of volunteers. Faculty and staff, who have either a green thumb or a desire to help, are stepping up. Even students from local high schools pitched in as part of their summer service program.

"We will continue to have ad hoc volunteer days to ask people to help with weeding, planting and moving mulch and dirt," said Doebling. "Upkeep and continual maintenance will be a community effort. We hope students, groups such as Urban Agriculture club and local residents will dig in going forward."

Helping it Flourish

Since the garden was started with the support of a donor, Doebling said she hopes other donors might have an interest in the space—not only to maintain it, but also continue to enhance it with more beds, benches, flowers, birdhouses and windchimes.

"Donations can give some solid footing to the garden that would help it grow and flourish in a positive way," Doebling added.

And thanks to the EX[L] Center and its [Un]class program, the University's connections to the Akron community will also continue to grow and flourish. ■



Learn more at uakron.edu/zipassist/

FORMAL ENGAGEMENT

The EX[L] Center for Community Engaged Learning's role is to think intentionally and strategically about ways to connect and embed opportunities for public impact across the student and faculty experience.

The Center does this by supporting community-based teaching, research and service that leverage and recognize the strengths of both the campus and the community.

In that spirit, alongside partners from across Akron, the Center is co-creating an innovative 12-credit Certificate in Applied Community Engagement. The program, which will be launched soon, is designed to build civic identity and give students an opportunity to make an even greater impact while they pursue their degree at UA.

The Center held a summer institute in July, during which 15 community leaders collaborated to co-create the curriculum. Christin Seher, co-director of the EX[L] Center, believes the program is one of a few of its kind in the country.

The certificate program, which can be integrated into any academic degree program, will help students grow their skills in creative thinking, communication, compassion, equity and justice, and partnership-building, while learning from a diverse array of community partners.

Seher noted this is a certificate program for Akron, by Akron. And when it comes to community collaboration, the EX[L] Center and The University of Akron are always ready to be involved.



AKRON ARMY ROTC

PROMOTES CULTURE OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP IN REGION AND BEYOND

BY ALEX KNISELY

Each year, cadets in The University of Akron's (UA) Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program turn local parks into training grounds. They are broken off into groups, or squads, and given a mission. Each group must work to establish a leader, assign duties, develop strategies and complete a mission, all while being watched by instructors taking note of their successes and setbacks.

Although it's Army training, these team-building simulations provide a lesson applicable to anyone—it's okay to mess up.

"Experiences like this instill in each cadet valuable leadership qualities, especially knowing that making mistakes and overcoming them is okay," said Lt. Col. Samuel C. Kicker, commander of Akron ROTC.

"The lessons in the classroom and in the field meld into your whole adult life, whether military or civilian sector."

This is just one example of how Akron ROTC, now in its 104th year, is training cadets in leadership styles that are applicable to roles in their careers—active, reserve or National Guard—such as effective communication, focused guidance and critical thinking. Not to mention, the community service Akron ROTC cadets participate in makes them leaders in the region.

Caring Cadets

One of those cadets helping people is Dominique Zimon of Independence, Ohio. She's a nursing major expected to graduate in spring 2023. Zimon recently completed the Army's Nursing Summer Training Program at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, specifically working in the adult intensive care unit.

"This experience enabled me to help the community there as well as to learn and further my nursing skills heading into my last year," said Zimon. "Being able to care for patients, just like I will once I graduate, has really given me the insight and preparation for when I am a registered nurse ready to hit the floor running. It has strengthened my confidence and my abilities, and I feel much more comfortable."

That's not all. In the last year, Zimon and her fellow Akron ROTC cadets have contributed to the region in meaningful ways:

- More than one thousand pounds of food was collected for a local food bank during Thanksgiving.
- Cadets provided clean-up services on campus following athletic events.
- Akron ROTC's Color Guard provided detail for campus events, local high schools and VFW chapters.
- More than \$500 was raised in support of the suicide awareness initiative, Out of Darkness.





- Members of Akron ROTC participated in the 9/11 stair climb on campus, hosted by the Akron Fire Department.
- In partnership with the College of Business, Akron ROTC led multiple Leadership Reaction Courses at Camp James A. Garfield in Ravenna, including a group of visiting Brazilian students.
- Fifteen cadets participated in the Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, Tenn., completing either a half or full marathon while wearing full combat load to honor fallen comrades in battle.

Community Connections

Akron ROTC students can also become involved in community service through organizations tied to their majors, such as adapting a Power Wheels car for a child with disabilities on an engineering service design team or providing critical health care evaluations for underprivileged demographics at free local health clinics.

"I believe Akron ROTC has prepared me well in leadership," said Zimon. "Community service experiences have impacted my learning and preparation for post-college, especially in the field of nursing. The more I can help the community that I am surrounded with, the better I can understand them and provide the best care for them while they are in the hospital."

"One of the central components to the U.S. Armed Forces is not only helping each other, it's also helping other nations in time of need," added Kicker. "I pride myself in being part of an organization where we think of others versus only looking out for ourselves. Whether it's cadets in training, a community in need or an underprivileged ally, we help other people build themselves up."

These experiences, including the physical demands of military training, prepare Akron ROTC cadets to support the U.S. Army's mission of providing humanitarian relief not only in the U.S., but around the world, by responding to disasters—natural and manmade.

"I believe Akron ROTC's role within our community should be setting an example to embody the spirit of the warrior's ethos while emphasizing the importance of our core values," said Kicker. "As public servants, it is our responsibility to integrate professional military ethics and character development into shaping the leaders of tomorrow. To sustain this hard-earned reputation, ROTC is committed to developing our cadets to lead our sons and daughters of America." ■

Learn more at uakron.edu/armyrotc/

MUSSONS EXEMPLIFY SERVICE TO *Country and Campus*

BY JANET CHISMAR HARDIE '92

Jay Musson's road to The University of Akron (UA) took him deep into the jungles of Vietnam, through fierce battles in Mekong Valley, and left him with a Purple Heart—along with scars from PTSD.

Sharing his story on a sunny morning at Akron Family Restaurant, Jay showed none of the pain and heartache he endured during the war. He spoke gladly about his family's "blue and gold blood" and the charitable legacy that resulted in the creation of Musson Veterans Lounge in InfoCision Stadium.

Dedicated on Sept. 12, 2011, the lounge offers student-veterans a place to relax, study and enjoy the same camaraderie that they experienced while serving their country.

In retracing the steps between Vietnam and Akron, Musson began with the summer of 1965. As a freshman at the University, Musson was as carefree as any 18 year old. Maybe too carefree. After just one semester,

Musson recognized that he wasn't yet ready for the commitment of higher education.

Unfortunately, due to leaving college, "Uncle Sam soon came calling." Musson enlisted in 1966, went on active duty in 1967 and was sent to Vietnam in 1968. Through military training and witnessing the horrors of war, Musson matured in a hurry.

"I didn't really realize what I had experienced when I was over there," he shared. "So, for a long time, I didn't seek any help. Many veterans would be in denial and no one really talked about trauma during that time. It took until about 20 years ago before I admitted what was going on."

The Journey Back

When he came home to Akron after the war, Musson simply jumped back into life as he left it. He married for the first time, began raising a family and took classes off and on. "Finally, after a number of unfulfilling jobs, I decided to enroll at UA full-time on the GI Bill," Musson said.

Although he wanted to be a history teacher, that didn't pan out and Musson found his way to the College of Business. There he earned bachelor's degrees in accounting in 1979 and business administration in 1981.

Following a handful of corporate jobs, Musson began to work at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Cleveland, where he put his empathy to good use along with his accounting skills. He retired in 2013.

These days, you can often find Musson on the UA campus; he serves on the board of The University of Akron Foundation and as secretary of the Executive Committee.

Jay and his current wife, Teddi, both are active on the Arts Advancement Council of Akron.



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A RACE WELL RUN STEVE AND JEANNINE MARKS' LEGACY *of* GIVING

If you've ever pounded the pavement during the Akron Marathon—or encouraged a runner along the route—you can thank two University of Akron (UA) alumni for the experience.

The Marks—Steve '82, and Jeannine '91, '96—established the Akron Marathon Charitable Corporation in 2002. On Oct. 11, 2003, runners hit the streets for the first time and in the 20 years since, the event has generated \$133 million in economic impact for Greater Akron.

As the co-founder of Main Street Gourmet, Steve has raised millions for charity. Muffins for Mammograms is a partnership with Cleveland Clinic Akron General that provides free mammograms for area women who are uninsured or underinsured. Main Street Gourmet has also donated more than 750,000 pounds of food to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank since 2004 through its “No Muffin Left Behind” sale.

Jeannine is the executive director of Stewart's Caring Place, a nonprofit cancer wellness center that offers free services to patients and their families. She also serves on the boards of Cleveland Clinic Akron General, the Jewish Community Board of Akron and the Akron Marathon Charitable Corporation.

“I've personally experienced the devastating effects of cancer, so it's been my personal mission to fully support individuals and families on their journey,” said Jeannine in explaining the genesis of her generosity. While attending classes at UA and working full time, Jeannine helped her

father who was then facing cancer, often driving him back and forth to Cleveland for treatment. Her oldest brother passed away from the disease in 2001.

For Steve, philanthropy just makes good sense: “When you see that your employees feel good about your company and the presence it has in the community, it has a profound impact on both morale and business success.

“We've each had advisors, mentors and supporters who have all been very active in the community,” Steve added. “It's just a natural for us to do that as well.”

Both of the Marks mentioned how important their years attending the University were in shaping their lives. Along with getting a solid education in accounting, Steve fondly recalled movies at The Chuckery, football and basketball games, and the long-term friendships he developed at UA. Jeannine appreciated the ease of taking evening and weekend classes while she built a full-time career.

As for the value of the town-gown relationship, Steve said it is vital, “like hand-in-glove. The City of Akron is only as good as the government and The University of Akron. Fortunately, both have great leaders who have a good relationship with one another.”

Jeannine added, “Just looking at the growth and power of the University and its ability to collaborate with the City, it's been amazing. UA is a wonderful asset to our community. ■

Visit akron.edu/magazine for the entire list of Class Notes and Farewells and other alumni news. You'll also find full-length versions of the stories in this issue, along with videos and additional images.

Class Notes

1960s

Ashwin S. Dani, M.S. '67, vice chairman of Asian Paints Limited, was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at CNBC-TV18's Indian Business Leader Awards in Mumbai. The second-generation scion of Asian Paints, Dani joined the company in 1968 as a senior executive and rose through the ranks to eventually lead the company. Dani's contribution has been instrumental to the company's growth as the largest paint maker in the country.

1970s

Dennis Gartman, B.A. '72, renowned investor, economist and longtime publisher of "The Gartman Letter," has joined Armada Hoffer Properties' board of directors. He will be the sixth independent member of the board. Armada Hoffer is a vertically integrated, self-managed real estate investment trust with more than four decades of experience developing, building, acquiring and managing high-quality office, retail and multifamily properties located primarily in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States.

Timothy V. Rasinski, B.S. '72, a professor at Kent State University, received the 2020 Outstanding Scholar Award at the university. He also received the 2021 William S. Gray Award from the International Literacy Association, which is the highest award given by the largest professional organization in support of literacy education in the world. Additionally, in 2021, Rasinski was named by Stanford University as being among the top 2% of researchers in the world.

1980s

John B. Kitto, Jr., MBA '80, a renewable energy consultant and power engineering expert, has been named an honorary member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Honorary membership is awarded by the ASME Board of Governors to up to five corporate members of the Society each year for a lifetime of "distinguished service that contributes significantly to the attainment of goals of the engineering profession."

Michael J. Saxon, B.S. '83, has been appointed by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine to serve on The University of Akron Board of Trustees, effective July 15, 2022.

Myron G. Zuder, Ph.D. '85, an Orthodox priest, will celebrate 55 years as pastor of St. Mary Orthodox Church in Akron and 60 years of ordination to priesthood.

He will also celebrate turning 85 years old and his 60th wedding anniversary to Dolores (Rocha) Zuder. They have three sons and four granddaughters.

1990s

Yamini K. Adkins, J.D. '93, has been

appointed to Leadership Akron's Board of Trustees. Adkins is the director of human resources for the City of Akron and serves on the board of the International Institute of Akron. She is a graduate of Leadership Akron's Signature program and has served on the Diversity on Board selection committee.



Keith A. Arner, B.S. '93, has been elected to managing partner at Hall, Kistler & Company. Arner is the firm's sixth managing partner since its founding in 1941. With more than 30 years of auditing, tax and accounting experience, he has worked with both privately and publicly held companies and leads the firm's oil and gas niche.

Michael A. Batu, B.S. '92, has been appointed to Leadership Akron's Board of Trustees. Batu is senior vice president and investment officer at Wells Fargo Advisors. Batu has served on boards for Habitat for Humanity, The University of Akron Finance Advisory Board, Child Guidance and Family Solutions, the Akron Civic Theatre and The University of Akron Alumni Board. He is a graduate of Leadership Akron's Signature Program, is currently a member of Leadership Akron's Founders Society and is active on its Development Committee.

Milton A. Blackmon, Ed.D. '92, has been named lead academic dean and senior associate dean in the undergraduate college at Duke University. In addition to working with students, he is supervising several academic deans. He is the first African American to hold this position.

John M. Hairston, III, B.S. '90, has been named vice president, treasury management area sales manager at Fifth Third Bank. He is responsible for leading the treasury management sales team and driving the bank's growth within Northern Ohio. Hairston has more than 27 years of banking experience in various leadership roles.

Kishore R. Khandavalli, M.S. '94, has been named as a finalist for the 2022 EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the Central Plains region. Khandavalli currently owns and runs several companies, including RiseIT Solutions, SevenTablets and iTech

Data Services. An award-winning entrepreneur and experienced keynote speaker, Khandavalli has guided multiple startups into successful enterprises.

James L. "Jim" Lipnos, A.A.S. '97, B.S. '00,

has been appointed senior vice president of development and construction on the Board of Directors for The Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati (HBAGC) by Treplus Communities. Lipnos offers three decades of executive leadership expertise in development and construction that includes specializations in land acquisition and zoning. The HBAGC promotes professionalism, educational opportunities, economic growth and community development.



Christopher J. "Chris" Pirrone, J.D. '96, has been appointed senior vice president and general manager of sports at The Arena Group. Pirrone brings more than two decades of digital media experience to the newly created role at the company. He will oversee the growth of The Arena Group's portfolio of sports sites, known as Sports Illustrated Media Group, which is anchored by Sports Illustrated.



Jason G. Riley, B.A. '95, has retired from the U.S. Army and been appointed to serve a three-year term on the Board of Park Commissioners of Ohio's Centerville-Washington Park District. Riley is the 19th individual to serve as a park commissioner since the district's formation in 1959.



Rita M. (Marsillo) Vitale, B.S.N. '89, received the 2022 Defender of Life Award for sidewalk advocacy for babies by Right to Life Northeast Ohio. Vitale has advocated for babies at Akron Children's Hospital since starting her nursing career there in 1988 in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

2000s

Olivia R. Fryer, B.A. '06, was named executive director of the Autism Society of Greater Phoenix in January.

Christine N. Justiss, B.S. '00, M.A. '05, has been named Akron Public Schools (APS) 2022 Teacher of the Year. Justiss is a veteran science teacher at National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM Middle

School. She has been with APS for two years and at the STEM school downtown for the past 13.

2010s

Hannah C. Couch, B.S. '15, M.S. '21, was recognized with the Akron Public Schools David W. James Award.

Couch is a teacher at Ellet Community Learning Center. The award is presented to a teacher within the first years of his/her career. To be considered for the award, a teacher must have taught for the district for fewer than 18 months, be an advocate for excellence through equity and use data effectively.



Kelly Dine, M.A. '16, is the first woman umpire for Big Ten baseball.


Dine became just the sixth woman to umpire in the Little League World Series and the second to be a crew chief and home plate umpire in a Little League World Series championship game. Dine, who also served in the U.S. Navy, earning the rank of lieutenant commander, worked her way from Little League to high school softball and baseball. Dine has also built a career with Akron Public Schools, where she works as a biomedical pathway instructor at North High School.



Rod A. Moore, J.D. '15, has been named a shareholder and director of the firm, Black McCuskey Souers & Arbaugh, LPA. Moore is a partner with Black McCuskey and focuses his practice in the areas of business, corporate, real estate and land use.

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Send address updates to:
The University of Akron Alumni Association,
375 E. Exchange Street,
Akron, OH 44325-2602
or email alumni@uakron.edu

Farewells in 2022

Alumni we lost in June and July of this year. For more Farewells, visit the website.

Teresa A. Abbuhl, A.A.B. '00 - June 17
Linda A. Baldwin, B.A. '73 - July 8
Joseph E. Boles, B.S.I.M. '64 - July 14
Connie M. Collings, B.S.B.A. '90, B.A. '91, MBA '93 - July 11
Wayne R. Dovin, B.S.B.A. '67, M.S.E. '73 - July 11
Jennifer J. Drungil, B.S.E. '83 - June 28
Dianne Edwards, A.A.B. '93 - July 12
Robert M. Eppley, B.S. '59 - June 26
Douglas B. Fahrni, B.A. '87 - July 16
Rosemarie a. Foord, B.A. '66 - June 10
Joseph P. Frola, B.S. '98, M.S. '04 - June 18
David M. Gausman, B.S.M.E. '70 - June 23
Christine M. Giesige, B.S.N. '98 - June 8
Ray Greene, B.A.E. '63 - June 16
Mark A. Hatherill, B.S.B.A. '85 - June 13
M. Isabel Hershberger, B.S.B.A. '43 - July 8
George R. Hetrick, B.S.A. '76 - June 8
Roger P. Jones, B.S.A. '89 - June 2
Helen L. Knapp, B.S.E. '67 - July 11
Robert W. Koger, B.A.E. '65 - July 16
Terrence H. Link, B.S.I.M. '71 - July 1
Robert R. Moore, MBA '78 - June 22
Thomas C. Moore, B.S.E. '66 - June 19
Thom L. Neff, B.S.C.E. '62 - June 6
Richard T. Peets, B.S. '93 - June 16
Daniel R. Potopsky, M.S.E. '67 - June 27
Cole V. Shawhan, A.A. '13, B.S. '16 - June 24
Larry L. Stimley Jr., A.A. '91, B.A. '92 - June 18
Kenneth S. Stumphauzer, J.D. '76 - July 17
Dennis K. Sullivan, B.S.I.M. '69, M.S.T. '74 - June 5
Matthew B. Susz, B.S.A. '91 - June 15
Gary A. Wagoner, B.S.B.A. '66 - July 10
Rose Mary Waller, B.A. '60 - July 12
Shirley J. Waltermire, B.S.E. '72, B.S.I.M. '90 - June 9
Dorothy J. Wecker, B.A. '49 - July 5

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Teddi's Tale

Right out of high school, Teddi went to Miami University in Ohio, which she attended for two years before marrying her first husband. After he passed away, Teddi returned to college, this time enrolling at The University of Akron part time. She graduated in 1994 with a degree in accounting. "I loved being a student and discovered the joy of learning when I went back to school," said Teddi. As a nontraditional student, she appreciated the flexibility of classes, the ease of navigating campus and the fact that she did not feel strange about being older than some of her classmates.

After graduation, she started working at Babcock & Wilcox, where she crossed paths with Jay and formed a solid friendship. The two have now been married 19 years.



“ I AM REALLY EXCITED ABOUT HOW THE UNIVERSITY HAS GROWN AND ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CITY OF AKRON”

Teddi Musson

Following her retirement, Teddi also found her way back to the UA campus where she lends her talents to the University's Women in Philanthropy Committee.

Last spring, Teddi and Jay toured the Akron Civic Theatre. They marveled at the beauty of that landmark and how so many amenities are within walking distance of downtown and the UA campus.

"I am really excited about how the University has grown and its involvement with the City of Akron," Teddi said. "It is mutually beneficial; the City draws a lot from the University and vice versa. It's a visibly strong connection and I am proud to be an alumna of UA and a resident of Akron." ■



UA Earns Purple Star: In recognition of the University's efforts to include and support military-connected students, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine earlier this year designated UA as a Collegiate Purple Star Campus. Criteria for being chosen for the honor include having a dedicated military/veteran point of contact on campus and establishing priority registration for veterans and service members. Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor Randy Gardner lauded UA for the support provided to student veterans: "UA's Military Services Center provides veterans, service members and their families with comprehensive support ranging from tutoring and scheduling assistance to its Musson Veterans Lounge. UA exemplifies a Collegiate Purple Star campus."



WORLD-RENOWNED RESEARCHER HONORS CUMMINGS CENTER WITH \$5M ENDOWED GIFT

Unique, iconic and breakthrough research in psychology is on display at the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology at The University of Akron (UA). This one-of-a-kind museum features home movies of Sigmund Freud, artifacts from the notorious Stanford Prison Experiment, the simulated shock

generator used in Stanley Milgram's studies of obedience, and the inflatable "Bobo" doll used to study the impact of television violence on children.

Those items, and other irreplaceable collections at the museum, will now be cared for by a generous gift of more than \$5 million to create The Cummings Center Endowed Fund.



Dr. R. Allen Gardner, a noted psychologist and world-renowned researcher in the field of comparative psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno, gained international attention for his hands-on approach to teaching American Sign Language (ASL) to a female chimpanzee named Washoe. Along with his late wife, zoologist Dr. Beatrix Tugendhut Gardner, the couple turned their home into a research compound where the chimp lived with them and was fully immersed in learning ASL.

In his estate, Dr. Gardner, who passed away last year at the age of 91, also bequeathed his intellectual property (films, books, papers, etc.) to the Cummings Center.

"Allen and Beatrix Gardner were pioneers in the study of nonhuman language, challenging our ideas about the limits of nonhuman primate communication," said Dr. Cathy Faye, executive director of the Cummings Center. "The rich collection of images, films and documents now housed at The University of Akron tells the story of how the Gardners raised chimpanzees as they would human children on their ranch in Reno, Nevada."

The Gardners adopted the chimpanzee Washoe in 1966 and raised her with the objective to learn how much chimps were like humans. Early results from 1967 showed Washoe had learned signs for hundreds of words and had created expressions like "water birds" for a pair of swans and "open flower" to gain admittance to a flower garden. The couple did similar tests with four more chimpanzees: Moja, Pili, Tatu and Dar.

"We are so pleased that the Gardners entrusted the Cummings Center with such a generous financial contribution and with the archival records of their work," said Faye. "It is truly a unique collection that we look forward to sharing with the public in the future." ■

For more information on the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, visit <https://www.uakron.edu/chp/>

THE O.C. ASHTON PRIZE FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

UA's longest-running scholarship, est. 1887

In a rapidly changing society, effective communication has never been more important. Mackenzie Weakland, a University of Akron student preparing for a professional career as a social media manager, understands that relevance and says everyone has a role to play in searching for common ground.

Weakland is a 2022 recipient of **The O.C. Ashton Prize Fund for Excellence**. Known today as The Ashton Prize Fund, it is UA's longest-running scholarship, dating back to 1887. She received the Ashton honor during the fall semester. It was established by Oliver C. Ashton, a fellow Universalist like Buchtel College founder John R. Buchtel, and a loyal officer of the First Universalist Church.

“I'm honored to have the award, to be even a small part of such a distinguished legacy.”

— Mackenzie Weakland, 2022 recipient of The Ashton Prize Fund

A junior from Atwater, Ohio, Weakland, 20, describes social media as the dominant communication vehicle of her generation. She says her peers have a responsibility to harness it, channel and use it for the better understanding of people around the world.

“Social media is the biggest way to market anything,” says the 2020 Springfield High School graduate. “The world is so much bigger because of social media. You can see how people across the globe can be reached and be affected by what is said,” Weakland commented.

A student in the School of Communication, Weakland also is a member of the Drs. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Honors College. She says the mixture of argumentation and debate courses she's taken, coupled with the student-led experience in the Williams Honors College, have influenced her thinking about the impact communication can have on others.

As her high school's valedictorian in 2020, Weakland recalled how the in-person graduation ceremony was wiped out by COVID-19. The district orchestrated, electronically, an event allowing the graduates to “record” their graduation stage walks and have it shown on YouTube.

Still, her speech remarks, and the overall evening, had a lasting impact on her graduating class. “That’s really the essence of interacting with other people,” Weakland said. “The traditional graduation expression was taken away, but another ‘social media’ type outlet preserved the experience.”

She says that speaks to the bigger role she wants effective social media to play.

“So much is open to young people as new opportunities emerge. We have to deal with improper uses,

the spread of misinformation. We must speak out and be activists; ensure that social media keeps people educated as opposed to just entertained. We have to promote the value social media has.”



Mackenzie Weakland

Weakland hopes to eventually use her degree professionally, either at a large firm or a non-profit. A former member of WZIP, the University's campus radio station, she now works with the College of Business as a student assistant forming the social messages. There, her work involves developing and preparing graphic representations for both upcoming student and academic events.

“I really enjoy this. Social media management is what I want to do, and the Ashton Prize and other scholarships I have received are helping me afford college, putting me on a path to success.”

UA stewards endowed funds, like the Ashton Prize, to benefit generations of students. ■

SCHOLARSHIPS AT-A-GLANCE

From the Ashton Prize, first awarded in 1887, scholarship donors continue to help students rise and succeed

Total donor-funded scholarships for FY 2022: \$4,624,114

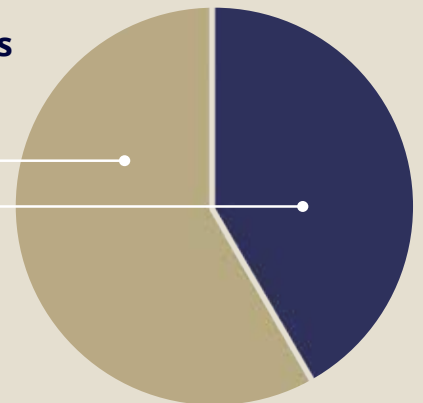
■ Total endowed scholarships: **\$2,700,763**

■ Total for current use: **\$1,923,351**

44 new named funds established

1,095 gifts to current use scholarships

2,207 gifts to endowed scholarships



Help students today by visiting uakron.edu/giving



REACHING BEYOND AKRON'S BORDERS

Celebrating 50 years of Wayne College Campus

The University of Akron (UA) is a compact, urban campus, located in a metropolitan city. But in 1966, it expanded to include a sprawling, rural campus in nearby Wayne County. This year, the Wayne College Campus celebrates 50 years of providing public higher education access in Wayne County and the surrounding region.

Nestled against the natural beauty of Northeast Ohio, the Wayne College Campus is ideal for studying and walking. More than 1,800 students choose to pursue an

associate degree or one of five bachelor's degrees each year, while experiencing small class sizes and personalized attention from faculty and staff.

Many others complete general education courses, and local high school students enroll in College Credit Plus courses. It's a campus with a welcoming culture that fits in with students' busy lives and is tailored to the commuter student experience.

"As a regional campus of The University of Akron we are thrilled to celebrate our

50th anniversary this fall. It is a wonderful opportunity to honor our history and the people who contributed to this campus, which prepares students for the rest of their lives," said Dr. Heather Howley, director of regional campuses. "Not only do we look to celebrate our past, but also the future as we continue to strengthen our impact within our community for years to come."

Learn more at wayne.uakron.edu

UA WAYNE COLLEGE CAMPUS HISTORY

1966 | A committee of 34 founding members led an effort to make a college education accessible for people located in the Wayne, Holmes and Medina County communities.

1967 | The new Orrville University Branch Foundation purchased 160 acres of the Blatter Farm property in the northwest area of the City of Orrville. The property included the oldest two-story home in Wayne County, the Barnet-Hoover Farmhouse, which celebrated its bicentennial in 2018.

1970 | The founding members voted to give this purchase to The University of Akron.

1971 | Construction of the Wayne General and Technical College's Main Classroom Building began on July 15.

1972 | The Wayne General and Technical College officially opened on Sept. 24 with 472 students. Tuition was \$190 per quarter for full-time students.

1989 | The John Boyer Gymnasium was completed.

1990 | The College was renamed The University of Akron Wayne College.

2009 | Construction of the Student Life Building was complete.

2011 | The first bachelor's degree program was launched on campus and the Weekend MBA program began.

2022 | The Wayne College Campus celebrates its 50th anniversary.





Joseph and Linda Gingo are joined by their son Jeffrey Gingo and his wife, Allison.

GINGO ENDOWED LAW DEAN'S CHAIR, HISTORIC UA MILESTONE

Academic distinction stands on the shoulders of those determined to change lives.

Akron benefactors Joseph and Linda Gingo have added to their legacy of leadership by establishing **The Joseph M. and Linda L. Gingo School of Law Dean's Chair Endowment**.

Their historic contribution, made through an estate gift commitment, provides the first dean's chair endowment in University of Akron history, raising the School of Law's stature as a national leader to an even higher plateau.

Endowed chairs attract brilliant, creative minds which uncover and examine bold ideas across a variety of disciplines. The Gingos' assistance increases the School of Law's ability to recruit elite leaders to the role of dean well into the future.

Chair of The University of Akron Board of Trustees, Joseph Gingo, and his wife, Linda, have long been advocates for higher education. Joseph earned his law degree from UA in 1971 and credits this degree as his most valued educational accomplishment.

The Gingos' trendsetting legacy shines brightly and points the way to the future. Theirs, and other bequest, life income and beneficiary designation options, offer diverse ways to show support.

Friends of the University may consider joining others in advancing their legacy in a way that impacts others through an estate gift by contacting Lia Jones, executive director, Center for Gift and Estate Planning at 330-972-2819 or LiaJones@uakron.edu.

The Gingo gift commitment is a part of UA's \$150 million We Rise Together campaign, an initiative launched in 2020 to raise funds in key areas of scholarship, student support, endowments for faculty and leadership, and support for faculty research and equipment.

The
University
of Akron

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The Campaign for
The University of Akron

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