



Dear Mount Alumni,

As the seventh president of Mount St. Joseph University, I am honored to serve this great institution and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the months ahead. From the first day my wife, Carole, and I stepped onto the Mount campus, we've been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic support of students, faculty, trustees, staff, graduates and friends of the University. Truly, we are blessed to be part of such a special community.

But we've been busy as well. Meeting with the Sisters of Charity, Mount administration, Board of Trustees and external partners has given me a greater appreciation of Mount St. Joseph University and its potential as I set key priorities in my leadership agenda. These include the following:

- fortifying our financial and operational resiliency;
- building a sustainable community at the Mount, while nurturing good governance;
- enriching our relationships throughout the Greater Cincinnati region—especially among alumni and donors—to stimulate philanthropy and provide new experiential learning opportunities for Mount students;
- evaluating our academic programs to ensure they meet the needs of our students and the demands of the 21st-century global marketplace;
- boosting enrollments to 3,000 students by 2020 (up from our current enrollment of 2,100 students) as we develop strategies with Ruffalo Noel Levitz, a leader in enrollment management consulting for higher education; and
- renovating facilities, beginning this summer, to accommodate new programs such as our new physician assistant program that will launch in 2018.

As you can see, we've much to do in the months ahead. Look for updates in upcoming issues of *Mount News*, our website (at [msj.edu](http://msj.edu)) and our alumni newsletter, *Alumni Connections*. Along those lines, I hope you enjoy this latest edition of your alumni magazine. Our feature highlights in this issue include a story on graduates who've embraced entrepreneurial thinking to launch their own businesses. They share their success stories as well as the challenges of being small business owners in today's economic climate.

We also examine Mount study abroad trips that promote much needed global perspective and broaden multicultural experiences for our students—essential traits in today's highly competitive job market. Our last feature focuses on the history of Cincinnati beer brewing and how the Mount's contribution to this rich legacy is being further defined by our faculty and alumni.

In closing, we hope the University has given you—our valued graduates—the skills, tools and experiences that have led to your own spiritual and professional fulfillment. It's no secret that one of the best benchmarks of any university is the quality of its alumni. The Mount graduates I've had the pleasure of meeting to date are truly an inspired group of leaders, innovators and professionals. Your successes only boost the reputation of our institution and further ensure that people associate a Mount degree with successful careers and personal distinction.

Please enjoy this latest issue of *Mount News*. My prayers and best wishes are with our entire community as you enjoy safe travels and spend time with family and friends during the summer months.

Best Regards,  
H. James Williams, Ph.D.