

MAROON & WHITE

NEWSLETTER



HOMECOMING 2024 | FALCON FEST

Homecoming 2024, Falcon Fest, was held October 1st – 6th with numerous activities throughout the week. Always a special event for Fairmont State Alumni, this year was no different with friends from far and near joining for the celebration.

Alumni enjoyed events including the Emeritus Luncheon on October 3rd, where the class of 1974 was honored at a special luncheon on campus. That evening the Homecoming Parade was held in historic downtown Fairmont, and this year the Alumni Association and Alumni Relations renewed a recent tradition by hosting a social event at The Joe after the parade. All alumni were invited to stop by after the parade, enjoy food, a specially themed Fairmont State latte, and celebrate Falcon Fest.

Activities continued Friday with the Alumni Awards Luncheon where several Fairmont State Alumni were honored for their commitment and contributions to Fairmont State and their communities. This year's winners were honored at the luncheon, featured in the parade, and introduced prior to the football game.

Followed by the Alumni Award Luncheon was the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction with over three hundred in attendance. This year's inductees were Perry Baker (Football), Brad Butcher (Emeritus, Men's Basketball), Tara (Black) Campbell (Softball), Duane Cochran (Meritorious Service), Joe Lambiotte (Coach, SID), Bruce Schaefer (Men's Swimming) and Bill Smarr (Letter Winner of Distinction, Football).

The annual Homecoming Alumni Tailgate was held prior to the football game on Saturday with a large turnout. A special thanks to the Marion County Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Fairmont for sponsoring the event. Prior to the game, the new and improved "Freddie" was hatched after months of anticipation.

A special event was added this year: "A Falcon Homecoming: Celebrating our Years with Michael Belmear" who retired from FSU after 32 years of service. The dinner raised over \$2000.00 for the Michael Belmear Freshman Counselor Endowed Scholarship and paid homage to not only his years of service to Fairmont State, but also the lasting mark he left on the institution and students.

As a reminder, the Alumni Association is always accepting nominations for annual Alumni Awards. You are invited to submit the name of alumni in four categories: Outstanding Alumni, Alumni of Achievement, Outstanding Young Alumni, and Lifetime Achievement.



2024 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Alumna: Ronda Colanero & Gina Fantasia
Outstanding Alumnus: Kevin Wilfong & Brent Skidmore
Alumna of Achievement: Cindy Salyers Dickey & Deborah Bennett
Alumnus of Achievement: John T. Belotte & David Nuzum
Young Alumni: Shannon Yost & James Kane
Lifetime Achievement: Delbert "Butch" Phillips

Please visit www.fairmontstate.edu/alumni/awards/ to get more information on the awards and to enter your nomination.

Visit photos.fairmontstate.edu/Events/Homecoming-2024 to view the 2024 Homecoming photo gallery!

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Falcon Alumni,

When I started in my dream job as President of Fairmont State University in July of 2023, I spent most of the first six months in discovery mode. I met hundreds of people, I asked thousands of questions, and along with my team, began to establish goals for Fairmont State. I was determined to make 2024 a year of action, and what a year it has been!

It started off with a bang with our Day of Giving event, when we crushed our goal and raised more than \$530,000. To those of you who gave, thank you. Your gift will have an extraordinary impact on our students and programs. Soon thereafter, we celebrated my inauguration as President. During this event, I talked about what has become the foundation of our strategic vision: Fairmont State University is a Great Place to Learn, to Work, and to Call Home (www.fairmontstate.edu/about/strategic-plan). We are now developing 11 implementation plans to realize that vision. However, at the end of the day, what really makes a university a "Great Place" are its people.

People like you, our alumni. Higher education faces multiple challenges, chief among them a rise in people questioning the value of going to college. Your successes help combat those doubts! You are a major reason Fairmont State is such a Great Place: the ways you have proudly represented your alma mater, built your lives and careers, and spread the word about Fairmont State highlight the benefits of higher education. You provide shining examples for Appalachian families of how high and far one can soar with a Fairmont State University education.

Next year will be even more exciting, as Fairmont State operationalizes our Strategic Vision. I anticipate 2025 will be filled with new programs, new resources, new facilities, new traditions, and new records. I hope you keep in touch and visit campus often. Remember, Fairmont State was, and will always be, your home.

To everyone reading this message, I hope this holiday season brings you joy, health, and peace. I'll see you in the New Year.



President Mike

Michael K. Davis, Ph.D.

President

Fairmont State University

A NOTE FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENT

From our house to your house, Happy Holiday Greetings. This is the time of year that reconnects old friends, we recognize the importance of family and reflect on the many people who have helped us along our path.

This year as always, we celebrated with several of our Alumni friends at Homecoming. We also began a new tradition of celebrating the individuals who made the college journey of so many falcons special. We had a wonderful fall season of activities, sports, cultural events, and even a Governor's Debate in Wallman Hall. Each time we came back to campus to enjoy the programs or cheer on the Falcons there was always a new Falcon that came back to the nest for us to visit with.

As our family celebrates the Christmas season, we look forward to evenings at the Feaster Center watching basketball, enjoying the sounds of the season on campus, and celebrating during the events on campus.

When I look back at the year that passed, I can't help but think of the Falcons who helped me in my path. It is even more special that now I get to thank the Falcons among us who are helping my son Nicholas find his way and build a successful plan for his journey.

Take a break, drink eggnog, make a snowball, hug an old friend, and remember Falcon Nation wishes you a Healthy-Happy-Joyful-Holiday Season.



Nick Fantasia

President, Alumni Association

Fairmont State University

FROM THE DESK OF AMY SNIVELY, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dear Fellow Fairmont State Alumni,

Season's Greetings from the Alumni Relations team at Fairmont State! As we embrace the holiday season, I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and engagement with the university over the past year.

The sense of unity among our alumni is nothing short of remarkable. Whether through in-person gatherings, virtual events, or your efforts to support the next generation of Fairmont State students, your commitment to our alma mater is what keeps our alumni network vibrant and impactful.

I am incredibly proud to be a part of the Falcon community, and I wish you a joyful season filled with laughter, love, and meaningful moments with those you hold dear.



Amy Snively

Director of Alumni Relations

Fairmont State University



FOREVER FALCONS

The Fairmont State Alumni Association remembers all Falcons who have passed away during the past few months. They may have passed from this life but will always be in our Falcon hearts. We apologize if we have missed anyone. If you know of someone who has passed in the last year, please let us know so we can honor them in the next edition.

Name and Class

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| Austin A. Angle | 1955 | Edward E. Garrett | 1970 | Kenneth Powell | 1982 | Paul L. Dulaney | 1971 |
| Elizabeth W. Frye | 1962 | Michael D. Godfrey | 1977 | Joyce A. Pristavec | 1996 | Linda L. Davis | 1972 |
| Lloyd A. Arnett | 1971 | Betty E. Berlin | 1947 | Paul A. Pritt | 1992 | Irene S. Falk | 1975 |
| Martin M. Arcure | 1958 | Frank W. Berry | 1969 | John R. Renzelli | 1977 | Donna L. Garrett | 1978 |
| Clyde W. Syputt | | Deborah A. Bland | 1981 | Elizabeth J. Rice | 1973 | Delbert L. Hardway | |
| Dolores Baker | | Robert E. Hager | 1967 | Denise A. Ludlow | 1985 | Verena A. Hollingshead | 1969 |
| Wesley M. Rinker | 2008 | James L. Hall | 1961 | Myron J. Seese | 1972 | Jean Kelley | 1980 |
| William P. Aman | 1974 | Richard M. Hastings | 1978 | Kyra V. Schlosser | 2011 | Eric R. Livengood | 1981 |
| Barbara G. Ashcraft | 1972 | William A. Jackson | 1951 | Linda L. Shriver | 1964 | Stephen E. Naternicola | 1985 |
| French B. Barnett | 1979 | Betty D. Wright | 1951 | Twila Hammel | 1976 | James J. Neri | 1966 |
| Elma F. Beall | 1958 | Martha J. Stout | 1954 | John K. Skidmore | 1985 | Michele A. Plutro | 1973 |
| Frank G. Dotson | 2000 | Nancy R. Hobbs | 1962 | Andrew J. Sorine | 1965 | Richard A. Poling | 1975 |
| Janette M. Brown | 1980 | Nancy B. Jones | 1960 | Beverly A. Thomas | 1996 | Deane L. Shaffer | 1971 |
| Connie Y. Bryan | 1971 | Diana J. Harman | 1987 | Mark R. Vennis | 1971 | Delores J. Snyder | 1962 |
| Henry F. Carte | 1971 | Mary J. Ford | 1981 | Carl E. Weimer | 1978 | Gina L. Taylor | 1997 |
| Randall L. Charlton | 1974 | Ranie K. Kovach | | Robert E. West | 1989 | John G. Lewis | 1999 |
| Patricia D. Conaway | 1965 | Jack W. Leep | 1972 | Barry G. White | 1986 | | |
| Marcia R. Cross | 1969 | Pamela S. Levine | | Gary P. Wilson | 1958 | | |
| Doris R. Davis | 1951 | Sandra S. Malcomb | 1989 | William J. Yoho | 1980 | | |
| George T. Delauder | 1998 | Thomas E. McIntire | 1979 | Martha J. Caputo | 1967 | | |
| Adam W. Kerns | 2003 | Clyde J. Michael | 1971 | Wesley W. Hood | 1998 | | |
| Kenneth Dye | 1989 | Sharon L. Moats | 1976 | Robert B. Reger | 1962 | | |
| James W. Eakle | 1970 | Thomas L. Nickolich | 1957 | Barbara N. Post | 1964 | | |
| Christopher L. Coleman | 2006/2007 | Ralph C. Niggemyer | 1977/1981 | Lindy L. Bennett | 1968 | | |
| Katherine Fetty | 1959 | Erik Fredricksen | | David E. Kulina | 1969 | | |
| Karen J. Kesling | 1965 | Kathryn J. Stoops | | Janette L. Morrison | 1969 | | |
| Rose B. Gain | 1965 | Samuel A. Peppler | 1969 | William G. Smith | 1970 | | |
| Terry L. Galambus | 1975 | Kevin C. Post | 1972 | James A. Kinsey | 1971 | | |

FAIRMONT STATE TO DEVELOP ALUMNI CHAPTERS AND AFFINITY GROUPS

2025 will be an exciting year for Fairmont State Alumni as alumni chapters for several locations and affinity groups are in the works!

Currently, the North Central West Virginia (NCWW) Next Gen Young Alumni Chapter is under development and will be finalized in the Spring. During the 2025-26 academic year, plans are to look at Charleston, WV, Parkersburg, WV, Buckhannon, WV, Charlotte, NC, Winston-Salem, NC, Myrtle Beach, SC, Pittsburgh, PA, Washington DC/Northern VA, and Florida. Affinity groups, communities of alumni that engage with one another based on shared interests, will also be developed and encouraged.

Affinity groups may include:

- Organizations/clubs/activities from your days on campus
- Majors/departments/programs
- Athletic teams
- Fraternities and sororities
- Residential life, and more!

If you are interested in participating or would like to be involved in creating an alumni chapter in your area or have questions:



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

To preserve the rich history of Fairmont State and honor its graduates, the Fairmont State Alumni Association, in partnership with Publishing Concepts, will produce a commemorative Oral History publication capturing & preserving story from alumni across the globe. This hardbound book will be made available for purchase in 2025 and can be shared for generations to keep your stories and memories alive.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FAIRMONT STATE DECEMBER GRADUATES

Winter Commencement 2024 will be held on December 14th and is open to all guests. Fairmont State Alumni Association wishes all graduates the best of luck and encourages them to keep their information current at fsufoundation.org/update-contact-info to receive alumni news and updates. December graduates are encouraged to stop by 248 Hardway Hall between December 9-13 to receive a free graduation tee shirt compliments of the Alumni Association.

FALCON MOMENTS

Exciting Alumni Highlights



Freddie the Falcon hatching



The New & Improved Freddie the Falcon



Solar Eclipse Viewing on Campus



Middle College Ribbon Cutting



NCWW Next Gen Kick-Off Event



Homecoming Parade



Homecoming Social Hour at The Joe



Homecoming Tailgate



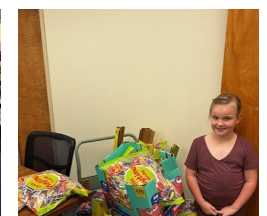
Mary Jo Thomas Celebrating with Michael Belmear



United Way Chili Cookoff



Amy Snively wins the Chili Cookoff



Future Falcon, Aberdeen, helping to sort cany for the Homecoming Parade

SAVE THE DATE | CAREER FAIR

Career Development & Community Engagement will, once again, host the All-Majors Spring Career Fair on March 12, 2025. This event is the largest career fair of the academic year on campus where all students and alumni are encouraged to attend. Over 120 companies are expected for this event and there will be sponsorships available. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months at www.fairmontstate.edu/student-services/career-development/career-fair.aspx



ALUMNI PODCAST SERIES

The Professional Spotlight Podcast Series, brought to you by the Encova Career Development Center, will continue for the spring semester. Each month, two successful alumni are featured on the podcast. The podcasts are recorded live and can later be viewed on the Fairmont State website at www.fairmontstate.edu/student-services/career-development/professional-spotlight-series.aspx.

