

# MAROON & WHITE

DECEMBER 2025 ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



FAIRMONT STATE  
ALUMNI



## FAIRMONT STATE CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL HOMECOMING 2025

Fairmont State University soared with Falcon pride as alumni, students, families, and community members gathered during Homecoming week October 6- 11, 2025. With record attendance, spirited traditions, and an atmosphere of genuine connection, this year's Homecoming showcased the best of what it means to be part of the Falcon family. Falcon Frenzy, Unleash the Spirit was the theme for this year's event.

Highlights of the week were the annual Homecoming Parade featuring Parade Marshals Dr. Bob Mild and Dr. Chris Lavorata, Emeritus Recognition, Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon & the Alumni Tailgate before the football game. The parade highlighted student organizations, community groups, and the energy of the Fighting Falcons Marching Band. Downtown Fairmont came alive with music, cheering, and an outpouring of school spirit from supporters of all ages.

"Homecoming gets bigger, more inclusive, more impressive every year, and so does the intensity of spirit and fellowship it encourages," said Dr. Mike Davis, Fairmont State University President. "This year's Falcon Frenzy was spectacular. I was thrilled to see so many alumni return to campus to celebrate and take part in the Homecoming events," Davis said. "I hope they realize that Homecoming isn't just a celebration of Fairmont State, but it's also a celebration of them, the alumni who proudly represent the University throughout the state, across the nation, and around the world. We could not do what we do, could not accomplish the successes we achieve, without the support of our alumni."

The Emeritus class of 1975 was recognized with a special luncheon on Thursday of Homecoming Week and on Friday, the Alumni Association presented their annual awards to accomplished graduates that credit their success to Fairmont State. Congratulations to the following Falcon alumni who were recognized this year:

**OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI – ISAAC LAMBERT, CASSADY RODRIGUEZ, JARED ROGERS, & ERIKA UTT-USHENDIBABA**

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNA – BARBARA BENNETT & JULIE SOLE**

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS – ROBERT BROOKOVER & STEVEN CAIN**

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNI – DWIGHT & TINA MOORE**

**ALUMNUS OF ACHIEVEMENT – JONATHAN BOARD, WARREN DOLES, ANDY NEPTUNE & L.D. SKARZINSKI**

**ALUMNA OF ACHIEVEMENT – BELINDA BIAFORE & GIA DEASY**

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – MARY JO THOMAS**



## FAIRMONT STATE CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL HOMECOMING 2025 (CONT.)

On campus, the Falcon Fest Tailgate offered a lively mix of food, games, family-friendly activities, and opportunities for alumni to reconnect with classmates and faculty.

The excitement carried into the afternoon as fans filled the stands for the Homecoming football game, Falcon supporters shared a collective sense of pride in the resilience and talent of this year's team.

Nick Fantasia, Alumni Association President, was particularly thrilled with the alumni award winners saying "This group of award winners came from a broad range of careers and were appreciative of being recognized. It was clear that falcons love to come back to campus. It was a lot of fun, but it was a lot of work too, Amy Snively, Tina Shaw, Susan Rodriguez, and our volunteer board did a great job."

Homecoming 2025 also featured campus tours, open houses, and student showcases, offering returning alumni a chance to see firsthand how Fairmont State continues to evolve and grow. Many remarked on the strong sense of community that remains at the heart of the university experience.

"Homecoming is a celebration of legacy and future," said Amy Snively, Alumni Relations Director. "Seeing generations of Falcons come together reminds us of

the impact Fairmont State has on lives and communities across West Virginia and beyond."

As the week ended, one theme was clear: Fairmont State University remains a place to learn, to work, and to call home. Homecoming 2025 was a resounding success—one that reflects the enduring spirit and unity of the Falcon community.

Here's to another unforgettable year, and to the traditions that keep us all soaring. Go Falcons!

To relive this year's festivities, enjoy photo highlights in the [Fairmont State Homecoming photo gallery](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR DECEMBER GRADUATES

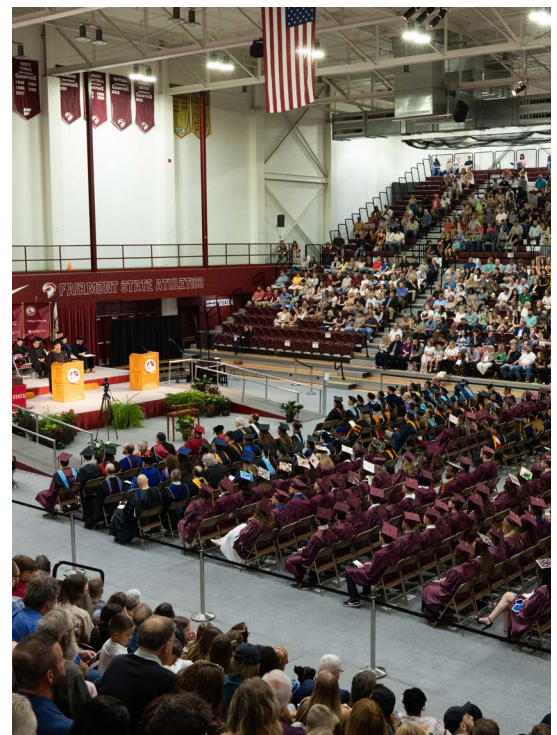
Fairmont State University proudly celebrated its newest graduates during the December Commencement Ceremonies on December 13, 2025, honoring the accomplishments, perseverance, and future aspirations of the Class of December 2025. Families, friends, faculty, and staff filled the Falcon Center to recognize students from across all academic colleges as they crossed the stage to receive their degrees.

The ceremonies highlighted the diverse pathways of Fairmont State students—first-generation graduates, working professionals returning to complete their education, student-athletes balancing academics and competition, and scholars who excelled in research, service, and leadership. University leaders praised graduates for their resilience, noting their commitment to academic excellence and their dedication to community, even amid rapidly changing academic and professional landscapes.

"Commencement is always a reminder of the strength and spirit of our Falcons, and we are excited to welcome the newest graduates into the Alumni Family" said Amy Snively, Director of Alumni Relations. "Our December graduates embody the values of Fairmont State—hard work, integrity, and a drive to make a meaningful impact."

Family members and supporters traveled from across the region and beyond to attend the ceremonies, creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere on campus. Graduates were encouraged to stay connected with the Fairmont State Alumni Association as they were given the official Fairmont State Alumni pin. As they begin their next chapter, whether advancing into new careers, pursuing graduate studies, or continuing their service within their communities, we hope they will keep us updated and stay connected to the Fairmont State Alumni Association.

As the Class of December 2025 transitions into a growing network of Falcon alumni, Fairmont State University extends its heartfelt congratulations and looks forward to celebrating their future achievements.



## FAIRMONT STATE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES DATE FOR 2026 DAY OF GIVING



On February 26, 2026, the entire Fairmont State University community will come together for one of the most important traditions of the year—our annual Day of Giving. This 24-hour celebration of generosity unites alumni, students, faculty, staff, families, and friends around supporting the programs, people, and opportunities that shape the Falcon experience.

This year's event is shaping up to be the biggest Day of Giving yet, with nearly 100 giving areas participating; a 40% increase over last year.

Each year, this important event highlights the power of collective support and the impact that even a single gift can make. Whether it's funding scholarships, enhancing academic programs, supporting the alumni mission,

strengthening student organizations, expanding research opportunities, or supporting athletics, every contribution directly fuels student success.

Throughout the day, donors can participate in challenge gifts, matching opportunities, and real-time progress updates that showcase the momentum building across campus and beyond.

"Our Day of Giving is more than a fundraiser—it's a community celebration," said Nick Fantasia, Alumni Board President. "It's a powerful reminder that when we come together, we make a measurable difference in the lives of our students."

Mark your calendar, spread the word, and get ready to show your Fairmont State Falcon pride. No matter the size of the gift, your participation is crucial. Together, we can make this the most successful Day of Giving yet! There will be several alumni challenges that you can donate to ensure the match is met.

**Join us on February 26, 2026, and help fuel the future of Fairmont State University.**

## FAIRMONT STATE ALUMNI CHAPTERS ON THE MOVE

Fairmont State is excited to share updates from a busy and rewarding semester of connections, service, and celebration. Our alumni chapters continue to grow, thanks to the energy and involvement of alumni near and far who are committed to strengthening ties with their alma mater.

Over the past few months, the alumni relations team has hosted events in Cooksville, M.D. (Northern V.A.-Baltimore), Charlotte, N.C., Charleston, S.C., Special events for our local young alumni; all designed to engage alumni of all ages and backgrounds. These events have produced "official" alumni chapters that will spread the Falcon news through networking socials to community service projects, to scholarship opportunities and more. Each event will bring new faces and strengthen long-standing relationships.



Special thanks to all who attended, volunteered, or helped spread the word—your participation will make these chapters thrive.

Be on the lookout for updates from all the above chapters in the coming semester. In addition, we will be on the move, once again, during the spring semester creating additional chapters. We encourage every alum in those areas to join us. Whether you're new to the area or reconnecting after some time away, there's always a place for you at the table.

The chapters are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with planning, communications, programming, and outreach. If you're interested in contributing your time or ideas, we can connect you with the chapter leaders to see how you can get involved.

And most importantly, don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) for chapter updates. Keep an eye on your inbox for upcoming invitations and opportunities to connect.

## FALCONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM WRAPS UP FALL SEMESTER 2025

This semester's Falcons Beyond the Classroom Podcast Series, sponsored by the Encova Career Development Center and Alumni Relations, concluded with outstanding engagement, thoughtful conversations, and a lineup of graduates who continue to inspire long after leaving campus. Designed to connect alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the university through meaningful storytelling, the series delivered fresh perspectives on career journeys, community leadership, and the shared experiences that bind Falcon Nation together.

Over the course of the semester, listeners heard from alumni across diverse industries—including education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, engineering, public service, and the arts. Each episode offered a candid look at life after graduation, featuring discussions on professional growth, overcoming challenges, and the impact of a university education on long-term success.

A few standout moments included:

- Powerful career insights from young professionals navigating rapidly changing fields.
- Heartfelt reflections from longtime graduates on how campus traditions shaped their paths.
- Leadership spotlights highlight alumni making a difference in their communities.
- Practical guidance for current students preparing to enter the workforce.

Feedback from listeners has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the authenticity of the conversations and the sense of connection it brings to the alumni network.

As we look ahead, plans are in the works for next semester's lineup, with new voices, fresh topics, and even more opportunities for alumni to engage. Whether you tune in each podcast, or listen and watch recordings on the [Fairmont State website](#) or [Spotify](#), Falcons Beyond the Classroom podcasts remain a meaningful way to stay connected, celebrate alumni success, and continue sharing the stories that make the Fairmont State community exceptional.

Miss an episode? The full archive is available on Spotify, and the Fairmont State Career Services & Alumni pages on the Fairmont State website, so you can listen anytime and revisit your favorites.

## FALCONS PREPARE FOR OPPORTUNITY: ALL MAJOR CAREER FAIR SET FOR MARCH 26, 2026

Fairmont State University will open its doors to opportunity on Thursday, March 26, 2026, as the All-Majors Career Fair returns to campus, bringing together employers, graduate programs, and students from every academic discipline. Hosted by the Encova Career Development Center, this annual event is designed to connect Falcons with meaningful pathways into internships, full-time careers, and advanced education.

This year's fair is expected to be one of the largest yet, featuring a robust lineup of regional and national employers representing fields such as business, engineering technology, healthcare, communications, education, criminal justice, and more. Graduate schools and service organizations will also be on hand to discuss advanced study and experiential learning options.

"Fairmont State students have a reputation for being well-prepared, hardworking, and community-minded," said Susan Rodriguez, Senior Director of Career Services. "The All-Major Career Fair gives them a powerful platform to showcase their strengths while building relationships that can shape their professional futures."

Students are encouraged to arrive dressed professionally and bring multiple copies of their résumé. Career Services will offer assistance with resume building, interview practice, and employer research.

The Career Fair is free and open to all Fairmont State students and alumni. Whether attendees are exploring career possibilities, seeking a summer internship, or ready to pursue full-time work after graduation, the event offers resources and connections for every stage of their journey.



## FOREVER FALCONS

The Fairmont State Alumni Association remembers ALL Falcons who have passed away in the past year.

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	Maiden	Class	Name	Maiden	Class
Carolyn Janicki	Romino	1958	Clifton A. Jackson		1993
Cecilia J. Graves		1978	James W. Fugera		1969
Jack E. Jamison		1971	Geert F. Bakker		1982
Edmund A. Jenkins		1958	Barbara M. Brunetti	Snyder	1979
Carolyn S. Urbaniak	Tutalo	1966	Eric M. Tennant		1997
Georgiana B. Prickett	Bissett	1965	James L. Law		1960
Judith E. Schroeder		1992	George L. Banko		1967
Howard L. Miller		1976	Charles T. Little		1958
Victoria J. Timms	Woy	1989	David A. Glendenning		1968
Anna T. Davidson	Tassone	1960	Brian K. Koper		1994
Mildred E. Gemondo		1953	Larry P. Mazza		1971
Thomas A. Stevens		1985	Mistie L. Martin		2020
John R. McDonald		1994	Linda Bartic	DeMary	1973
Michael C. Satterfield			Jenny A. Lenhart	Williams	1986
Carol C. Brown	Cleveland		Keith L. Holt		1955
Vicky L. Shears		1982	Patrick J. Sherman		1966
Jeffrey W. Jamison		1982	Terry L. Hamilton		1989
Donald D. Meighen		1967	David M. Manzo		1982
David D. Cain		1972	Margaret M. Arcure	DeBellis	1972
Carl D. Hawkins		1960	William E. Anderson		1978
Melanie D. Rebrook-Betonte	Moses	2005	David D. Kennedy		1951
Donna R. Donnellon			Wayne L. Bitner		1970
Suzanne D. Lafferty	Giles	1979	Brian D. Berry		
Saundra R. Majic	Addis		Thomas W. Dagle		1981
Roberta K. Cottrill		1974	Kevin G. Sumbler		1995
Alan J. Poling		1976	Laura L. Cain	Donehew	1948
Thea A. McAvoy		1987	Hansel R. Means		1986
Gregory R. Vance		1994	Patricia L. Stewart		2003
Lydia A. Sweeney		1977	Wanda I. Mapes		1970
Steve J. Conrad		2001	Arthur L. Carpenter		1978
Joseph M. Muto		1958	Robert A. Caldwell		1975
Janet Wolfe	Martino	1966	Diana L. Wagner		1974
Jane C. DeRollo	Orr	1962	Kathleen J. Scott		1955
Marilyn G. Keener		1981	Vivian L. Daye	Pachuta	1966
Patricia J. Rowland	Cassidy	1974	Robin A. Brenneman		1985