

CHECK US OUT!

Stay connected with the latest news, events, and opportunities from the Fairmont State Alumni community by checking out our alumni channels online! Follow the official Fairmont State Alumni pages on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and visit the Alumni website for updates on Homecoming, Alumni events, campus news, and more!

To make sure you are receiving the most up-to-date information, please update your contact information at fsufoundation.org/update-contact-info or by using the QR code below:



[LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/FAIRMONT-STATE-ALUMNI](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fairmont-state-alumni)

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FAIRMONT STATE ALUMNI

1300 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, WV 26554
[WWW.FAIRMONTSTATE.EDU/ALUMNI](https://www.fairmontstate.edu/alumni)

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fairmont State Alumni,

When I arrived at Fairmont State University three years ago, I heard a phrase over and over again: Fairmont State was “the best kept secret” in West Virginia.

I understood what people meant. They meant that this was a special place, filled with talented students, committed faculty, dedicated staff, loyal alumni, and a community that believed deeply in the University. They meant that Fairmont State had a history worth celebrating and a future worth investing in. But every time I heard that phrase, I had the same response: we should stop keeping secrets.

Fairmont State has too much to be proud of to stay quiet.

Over the past three years, that has begun to change. When I travel across West Virginia and throughout the region, people know what is happening on our campus. They know our students are achieving great things. They know our programs are growing. They know our faculty and staff are doing work that matters. They know Fairmont State is moving forward with confidence, energy, and purpose.

That kind of recognition does not happen by accident. It happens because people believe in the University enough to tell its story. It happens when alumni speak with pride about their experience. It happens when students leave campus prepared to lead, serve, teach, care, build, and contribute. It happens when faculty and staff go above and beyond every day, often in ways that do not make headlines but make all the difference in the lives of our students.

That momentum belongs to all of us.

Now, I believe Fairmont State is entering a new stage. We have moved beyond simply telling our story. We are entering what I like to think of as the “why not us?” stage.

Why not Fairmont State?

Why not build new facilities and expand the ones that have served generations of Falcons? Why not add new academic programs that meet the needs of our students, our communities, and our state? Why not continue to grow enrollment, strengthen student success, deepen partnerships, and raise our expectations for what this University can become?

That is the mindset we are carrying forward. Not out of arrogance, but out of belief. Belief in our students. Belief in our mission. Belief in the people who make Fairmont State what it is. Belief that a university with our history, our location, our community, and our commitment to students should be thinking boldly about what comes next.

The “why not us?” era is about more than new buildings or new programs, though those things matter. It is about ambition rooted in service. It is about asking how Fairmont State can better meet the needs of West Virginia and the region. It is about preparing students for careers that are changing, communities that need leadership, and a world that will demand creativity, resilience, and compassion.

And as much as Fairmont State grows and changes, the most important part of who we are will remain the same.

This University has always been built on relationships. Relationships between students and faculty. Between staff and families. Between classmates who become lifelong friends. Between the University and the community that has supported it for generations. Fairmont State has never been the kind of place where students disappear into the crowd. It is a place where people know your name, notice your potential, and help you become who you are meant to be.

That is what makes Fairmont State special. It is not only the education students receive, but the people who walk alongside them while they receive it. It is the professor who stays after class. The staff member who helps solve a problem. The coach, mentor, advisor, classmate, or friend who offers encouragement at exactly the right time. Those relationships are the foundation of this University, and they will continue to guide us no matter how much we grow.

And, of course, that includes the relationship between Fairmont State and our alumni.

You are a huge part of this story. You carry Fairmont State with you into your careers, your communities, your families, and your lives. You remind people what a Fairmont State education can do. You help open doors for today's students. You keep alive the traditions, pride, and sense of belonging that make this place different.

As we enter this next chapter, I hope you will stay connected, stay engaged, and stay proud. Come back to campus. Share your story. Mentor a student. Cheer on our Falcons. Tell people what Fairmont State meant to you and what it continues to mean today.

Fairmont State is no longer a secret. The region is noticing. The state is noticing. And together, we are just getting started.

Why not us?

Sincerely,
Mike Davis | President, Fairmont State University



Michael K. Davis, Ph.D.

President, Fairmont State University

Ashton Loudon

Class of 2026

MAROON & WHITE

SPRING 2026 ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



FAIRMONT STATE ALUMNI

Save the Date
FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
HOMECOMING
SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 4, 2026

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2026! We will be hosting events from September 28th-October 4th on and around campus for alumni, students, faculty, and staff to reconnect!

Check frequently for Homecoming 2026 updates at fairmontstate.edu/alumni/homecoming

In addition to special events and campus activities, we are proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our 2026 Alumni Award Recipients:

Outstanding Alumna

Marci Cochran, Jackie Iaquinto Reed,
Cathie Metheny, Diana Pishner Walker

Outstanding Alumnus

Mel Coleman, Michael Edmond
Gary Fazalare, Tony Merendino

Alumna of Achievement

Jessica Chenoweth, Crystal Laughlin Mersh
Susan Riffle, Vanessa Sword

Alumnus of Achievement

Vince Cava, Allen Retton
Dave Ricer, Chuck Smith

Outstanding Young Alumni

Emily Gersper Mouser, Alex Petry

Lifetime Achievement Award

Joseph “Bud” Ford

This year, we are excited to honor the Emeritus Class of 1976. Additional details about all Homecoming events, award celebrations, and special activities will be announced in the coming months. We encourage alumni and friends to make plans now to join us back on campus for this exciting celebration of Falcon pride!



Nick Fantasia

President, Fairmont State
Alumni Association

WELCOME TO A NEW BEGINNING FALCON NATION

It is Springtime on campus, which brings many meanings and opportunities. Our beautiful campus is flowering and budding with new growth. If time and proximity allow, take a walk and rekindle the memories of springtime on campus. The sounds of students. The echoes of Baseball and Softball games. The music and color of the spring student get-togethers and the memories of shared experiences.

It is graduation time. Commencements are taking place. Families are gathering and celebrating. As the future unfolds for this new generation of Falcons, much will be like your experience. Futures are shaped by the character and integrity of Faculty and Staff. Opportunities unfolding from the Falcon community. Experiences shaped by those with whom we shared time in the classroom, dorm room, and at the supper table. No one reaches these milestones alone. Countless quiet moments of guidance, patience, and presence from those important to us. Those who are with us and those who are not, have shared the excitement of what is ahead.

Falcon Nation is over 40,000 people who share excitement for the future. On behalf of the Alumni Board & team, well done, Falcons. Well done.

Nick

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2026!

Congratulations, Class of 2026! You have joined a proud community of Falcons whose journeys began on the same campus that is now forever part of your story. Your recent commencement was not an ending, but an invitation to carry the spirit of Fairmont State University into the world with courage, kindness, and purpose. As you celebrate this milestone, remember that your journey at Fairmont State began with that first nervous walk across campus as a freshman. Back then, the buildings felt enormous, the future seemed uncertain, and the possibilities were endless. But somewhere between late-night study sessions, friendships forged over coffee, campus traditions, and professors who believed in you, Fairmont State became a second home.

As you step into new careers, new adventures, and new opportunities, remember that you will always have a home at Fairmont State. The friendships, lessons, and memories you created here become part of a lifelong connection shared by alumni across generations. Your hard work, resilience, and determination have brought you to this moment, and your future is filled with endless possibility. We are proud to welcome you into the alumni family and excited to see the impact you will make in your communities and beyond. Once a Falcon, always a Falcon!

CELEBRATING DR. G.H. BUDD SAPP

On February 28, the Alumni Association held a celebration honoring Dr. G. H. "Budd" Sapp, Fairmont State alumnus, emeritus professor, and dedicated community leader. After more than two decades of distinguished service to Fairmont State, Dr. Sapp's impact has been far-reaching. His contributions span teaching excellence, program development, accreditation leadership, alumni engagement, athletic support, and meaningful community involvement. His commitment to education and service throughout Marion County continues to have a lasting legacy of leadership, innovation, and dedication to both Fairmont State and the broader community. Congratulations, Dr. Sapp on this well-deserved honor!



FALCONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Falcons Beyond the Classroom podcast series presented by Career Services and Alumni Relations continued this past semester with interviews from successful alumni and other community leaders. These events allow the viewers and listeners to learn about the Fairmont State experience from alumni across the nation. Our alumni are doing amazing things and truly "changing the world", and it all started on the campus of Fairmont State. Other community leaders shared their insights with current students along with advice as they embark on their careers. All podcasts can be viewed at fairmontstate.edu/student-services/career-development/professional-spotlight-series.aspx or listened to on the Falcons Beyond the Classroom Spotify page.

Many thanks go out to our spring semester participants: Fairmont City Manager Travis Blosser, WesBanco Executive VP & Director of Commercial Banking Allen Retton, School Counselor Tommy Retton, Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Pierpont Community & Technical College Natalie Feltz, Vice President of Training and Sales for Philips' ECG Solutions Eric Stover, Global HR Leader at Microban International Vanessa Sword, Senior Research Scientist and Manager of the Office of Data Science and Informatics at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Dr. Manil Maskey, and retired Executive Director-Business Execution Senior Manager Chris Goodwin. We hope you will take the time to watch or listen to these podcasts as our alumni are paving the way for a future generation!

DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Fairmont State was well represented in Charleston during the Day at the Capitol. The executive leadership team, faculty, employees, alumni, and students traveled to Charleston on January 23 to meet with legislators and their staffers to make sure Fairmont State University was front and center during the 2026 Legislative Session.

2026 DAY OF GIVING

Thank you to all alumni who supported Fairmont State during the annual Day of Giving in February. With your support, Fairmont State raised over \$800,000 with many of those donations supporting alumni scholarships and initiatives. The Alumni Association along with the Alumni Relations team thank you for your generosity and support not only on this important day, but throughout each semester!



STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS: ALUMNI CHAPTERS ON THE RISE AT FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY

At Fairmont State, being a Falcon is a lifelong connection. As part of the university's continued commitment to building meaningful relationships with graduates, alumni chapters are growing and thriving, creating new opportunities for engagement, networking, and service. In recent months, alumni chapters have emerged in several regions, including areas such as Northern Virginia/Baltimore, MD, Charlotte, NC, Charleston, SC, and the Martinsburg, WV area. These chapters are more than just social groups; they are vibrant communities that bring together Falcons of all generations.

Alumni chapters offer something for everyone. These events not only reconnect graduates with their alma mater, but also strengthen professional and personal relationships among alumni in their local communities. Alumni chapters serve as an extension of campus, helping graduates stay informed and involved. Through these local networks, alumni can:

- Build professional connections and expand their networks
- Give back through volunteerism and mentorship
- Support current students and university initiatives
- Celebrate shared traditions and Falcon pride

The continued success of alumni chapters depends on the passion and participation of Fairmont State graduates. Whether attending an event, volunteering to help plan activities, or stepping into a leadership role, there are countless ways to make an impact. Chapter leaders in each of these areas have already started and will soon be reaching out about participation in upcoming events and activities. Special thanks go out to Mary Jordan and Vanessa Sword in the Greater Charlotte area, Lauren O'Brien in the Charleston, SC area, Seth Davis in the northern VA and MD area, Jarrod & Courtney Furgason and Mark & Stephanie Ostrowski in the Greater Martinsburg area, and Adrianna Constable, Isaac Lambert, and Allison Quigley with our North Central West Virginia Young Alumni Chapter. They, along with others, will be leading these chapters into the next academic year. Each chapter has a group page on the Fairmont State Alumni Facebook page, so please check them out and join as a member.

With strong momentum and growing enthusiasm, alumni chapters are poised to play an even greater role in the future of Fairmont State. By bringing alumni together in meaningful ways, these chapters help carry forward the spirit, pride, and tradition that define the Falcon community. As new chapters continue to form, alumni are encouraged to stay connected through university communications and social media, ensuring they do not miss opportunities to engage. No matter where you are, there is always a seat at the table for our Falcon family!

If you are interested in learning more about the possibility of an alumni chapter in your area, contact info for the chapter leaders or how you can get involved, please email alumni@fairmontstate.edu.



I was surprised how many Fairmont State Alumni live here in Charleston, SC. I am looking forward to engaging and getting to know everyone in the area as the chapter grows.

Lauren O'Brien '07

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	Name	Maiden	Class
Paul E. Adams		1974	Sandra J. Inghram		1983	Carolyn F. Young	Poe	1963
Teresa R. Larson	Adkins	1995	Linda E. Jones		1978	Frances Zappacosta	Pachuta	1965
Robin A. Brenneman		1985	Brenda L. Prim	Jones	1967	Ned O. Merrifield		1960
John B. Burns		1985	Jerry R. Lambert		1985	Patricia L. Stewart		2003
Jackie O. Burton		1974	Karen M. Lynch	Wetzel	1961	Joseph A. Tristani		1964
Laura L. Cain Donehew		1948	Daniel E. Mankins		1964	Wilbur Z. Sine		1969
Robert A. Caldwell		1975	Jeanie S. McGee	McCracken	1980	Robert C. Solomon		2011
Patrick D. Carder		1995	Hansel R. Means		1986	Danielle L. Guthrie		2017
Arthur L. Carpenter		1978	Theodore N. Nash		1973	Kathleen J. Scott		1955
Vivian L. DayePachuta		1966	Joseph A. Pellegrin		1982	Edmund J. Matko		1961
Randall L. Devores		1980	Joseph A. Ruggiero		1958	Carmella J. Fisher		1963
Jeanie Dotson	Viglianco	1973	Veronica Schweitzer		1979	James M. Hinzman		1964
Douglas M. Fadool		1985	Janet E. Stickler	Mankins	1958	Betty L. Narog		1966
Ralph C. Fast	1976		Kevin G. Sumbler		1995	Sandra S. Sharps		1968
William J. Grandstaff		1985	Jimmie R. Villinger		1957	Cathryn D. Guido		1969
David L. Greaver		1972	Elizabeth J. Waddell	Rider	1952	Lee R. McCloud		1969
Hazel J. Hamilton		1981	Elaine WatsonBennett		1960	Wanda I. Mapes		1970
Mary Harshbarger	Bruce	1974	Blair D. Weitzel		1976	Robert B. Morrison		1973
Betty R. Henderson		1984	Jerry S. Wilson		1964	Diana L. Wagner		1974
Ralph S. Herron		1975	Maureen K. Wolfe	Kennedy	1949	Matthew S. Hill		2023
Joanne L. Hogan	Pitzer	1956	John E. Yerkovich		1968			