

FAIRMONT STATE
FOUNDATION

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FAIRMONT STATE
Alumni

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A LETTER FROM THE FAIRMONT STATE FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2017

A Note from Interim President Jones



Dr. Stephen B. Jones

I am thrilled to serve as Fairmont State University's Interim President. FSU is my ninth university; no other institution matches the purpose, passion, and power of our University on the Hill!

Every person I meet – students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members – expresses admiration and a deep love of FSU. The bonds are strong; the feelings are deep. I speak for the entire FSU family when I thank you for your dedication and support. Without your gifts, donations, and partnerships, our University would not (could not) stand tall.

You enable us to offer scholarships to students who otherwise could not attend. You make the difference for a faculty

member who needs help in taking students on once-in-a-lifetime trips and educational experiences. Through your contributions, you invest in new lab equipment, computers, and musical instruments. You help us model innovative technologies to assure our students enter the workforce prepared for 21st Century employment.

You help us improve athletic facilities, remodel the library, and maintain cutting edge IT service. You spell the difference between a struggling state university and one ready to soar far above the financial constraints of flagging state funding.

We are grateful for the lift you provide – the launch you propel!

2017 Alumni Award Winner Preview

The Fairmont State University Alumni Association will be honoring this year's award winners at a luncheon during Homecoming weekend on September 30th. Please see more information on Homecoming events at the end of this newsletter.

professional accomplishments, service to the community, ethical behavior and exemplary character.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

Dr. Mary Veltri Jordan
JP Miller

AWARD CRITERIA: Graduate of Fairmont State under the age of 40 during the year of nomination, who is successful in chosen career, displays service to the community, is recognized for professional accomplishments, maintains communication with Fairmont State and exhibits ethical behavior and exemplary character.

LIFETIME LEGACY

Dr. Maria Bennett Rose

Award Criteria: Graduate of Fairmont State who displays both loyalty to Fairmont State and has achieved a high level of success in their chosen profession. They are also recognized for their professional accomplishments, service to the community, ethical behavior and exemplary character.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Deborah Haught Prezioso
Richard Forren

AWARD CRITERIA: Graduate of Fairmont State prior to 1991 who displays loyalty to Fairmont State, is successful in chosen career, serves community and exhibits ethical behavior and exemplary character.

ALUMNI OF ACHIEVEMENT

Sandra Ross Rosenberger
Dr. Roberta Atha Strosnider
Ted Dreisinger
David Sago

AWARD CRITERIA: Graduate of Fairmont State who has achieved a high level of success in chosen profession and is recognized for

MATCHING GIFTS:
Double the Impact of Your Donation

Your gift to the Fairmont State Foundation could be matched dollar for dollar by your employer! Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees, retirees and/or employees' spouses. To find out if your company has a matching gift program, please consult your human resources department. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to Fairmont State may be doubled or possibly tripled!

FSU HOMECOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September 25 - October 1, 2017



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Campus Tours Admissions Office 105 Turley Student Services Center
- 6:30 p.m. – Homecoming Parade Downtown Fairmont
- 7 p.m. – Alumni Gathering Joe n' Throw, Downtown Fairmont

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. – Campus Tours Admissions Office 105 Turley Student Services Center
- 11 a.m. – Class of 1967 Emeritus Induction Luncheon Falcon Center 3rd Floor, Conference Rooms (sponsored by Civil and Environmental Consultants, CEC)
- 4 p.m. – 1967 Football Team Reception Falcon Center 3rd Floor, Conference Rooms (sponsored by FSU Foundation)
- 6 p.m. – Athletic Hall of Fame Induction & Banquet Falcon Center Gym 1

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 10:30 a.m. – Alumni Awards Brunch Falcon Center 3rd Floor Conference Rooms (sponsored by The Thrasher Group)
- 12 p.m. – Alumni & Family Weekend Tailgate White Lot
- 2 p.m. – Fighting Falcons Football vs. UVA Wise Duvall-Rosier Field
- 7:30 p.m. – To Kill A Mockingbird Wallman Hall Theatre

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 2 p.m. – To Kill A Mockingbird Wallman Hall Theatre

Discover more details and register for the events at:
fairmontstate.edu/homecoming

Theta Xi Alumni Meet for 25th Fraternity Anniversary

Theta Xi has a long history with Fairmont State, originally organized on campus as Omicron Pi Chapter of Kappa Sigma Kappa in 1928. In 1962 it became the Kappa Gamma Chapter of Theta Xi. In the late 1970s the Chapter was not able to survive a slump in common interest and economic requirements to sustain chapter membership status; however, sometime during the mid 1980s several of the Theta Xi alumni brothers began having informal get-togethers and as the numbers grew it was decided to meet annually. The founding members constructed a charter and formally organized the Kappa Gamma Alumni Association (KGAA) in 1992. Officers were elected and the annual two-day reunions were planned and held at various locations over the years: several in Fairmont, others in Virginia Beach, Ohio and Cheat Lake (WV) but mostly in Canaan Valley (WV),



From L-R: Jim Patton, Larry Breckenridge, Rick Skinner, Charlie Vandegrift, Gene Browning, Tom Crowley, Eddie Worden, Austin Upton, Bob Softcheck, Tim Rogers, Don Gorgei, Randy Columbo, John McDougal, Bob Hawkins, John Skidmore, Bill Wilson, Tom Kijowski, David Marple. Not Pictured: Gerry Matteucci, Dave Curtis, Tom Talerico, and Tom Kopp. Photo By: Tim Rogers

which has become the currently desired central location.

As the KGAA continued to grow it applied for and was granted a Certificate of Registration with the U.S. Copyright Office in August of 2001.

A testimonial to the bond between KGAA members and Fairmont State is that three of the brothers have established endowed scholarships with the Fairmont State Foundation School of Education, Health & Human Performance. Others have served on the FSU Alumni Board and other university boards and committees assisting in fundraising.

The 2017 25th 'official' reunion in Canaan Valley had 45 attendees with Kappa Gamma numbers ranging from KG-43 to KG-379. In addition to the annual reunion, many Kappa Gamma Alumni Association members keep in touch by attending a tailgate party prior to the FSU Football Homecoming game each year and through Facebook at Fairmont State Kappa Gamma Theta Xi Alumni Reunion Group. The organization also has a public news and information website at kappagammanews.blogspot.com.

Freshman Counselor Reunion



On July 22, over 100 former Falcons attended the 2017 Freshman Counselor Reunion that took place on the main campus in the Falcon Center. Many of the graduates had not been back to campus since they graduated and enjoyed seeing all of the changes to campus.

Those who reflected on the experiences with the Freshman Counselor program included:

Kat Stevens, '81; Shari Reckart Rexroad, '90; Dr. Terry Farris, '97; and Brooke Michael,

'02. Michael Belmear, former Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of the Orientation program, closed out the evening with inspirational remarks.

RJ Gimbl, President & CEO of the Fairmont State Foundation, explained the need to give back to their alma mater and encouraged the group to support the Freshman Counselor Scholarship Fund. Donations to the fund can be made by contacting the Foundation at 304-534-8786 or online at giving.fsufoundation.org.

FSU Concrete Canoe Team Places 12th in the Nation



Fairmont State University's American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter continues its tradition of national excellence. For the 13th consecutive year, FSU represented the region at the ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition. This year, the team placed 12th in the nation overall, tying its previous best ranking, and broke a record in the women's sprints with a ninth place finish.

Criminal Justice Students Take Top Honors in National Competition



Fairmont State University Criminal Justice students recently took top honors at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences/Alpha Phi Sigma National Conference in Kansas City, Mo. In fact, Fairmont State will be known as the Alpha Phi Sigma National Office for the next two years because three FSU students won the national election for the presidential slate of the organization and will serve a two-year term as its national officers.

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Maria C. Rose



The creation of the Maria C. Rose Endowed Scholarship for first-generation college students was a special tribute to Rose's many years of service to Fairmont State University. After being part of the Fairmont State family for more than 25 years, Dr. Maria Rose became the University's president on May 3, 2012. Prior to her appointment, she served as Interim President, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and as a faculty member. Rose retired on June 30, 2017.

Focusing the scholarship award was a personal touch to salute Rose, who was the first in her family to attend college like many of FSU's students. Rose often speaks fondly of her parents and their support of her pursuit of higher education.

"Growing up, I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. I was one of those kids who played school. There was never a doubt in my mind or in my parents' minds that I would go to college, but never in my wildest dreams did I think I would someday be a university president. That is the power of a higher education degree. Education can create opportunities you never dared to imagine," Rose said.

To donate to the scholarship, contact the Fairmont State Foundation at (304) 534-8786 or make a gift online at FSUFoundation.org.

Class of 2017 Senior Campaign

On May 11, Fairmont State University students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community dedicated the new Falcon Commons, a brick pathway on the main campus that was selected as the Senior Campaign by the Class of 2017.

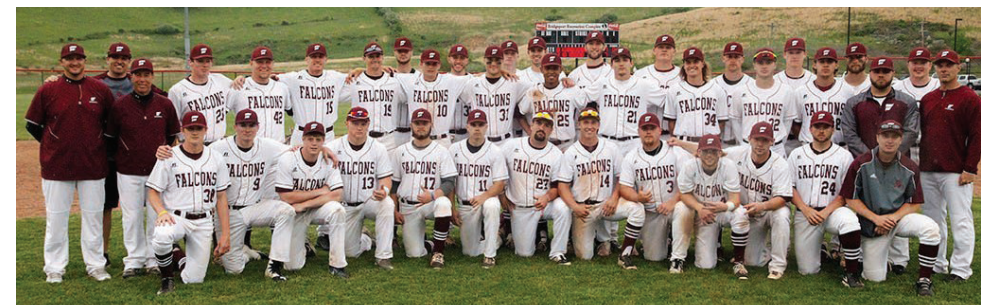
"As the Class of 2017, we hope that Falcon Commons and the engraved brick pathway will serve to symbolize the lasting impressions we have made on the University and the impact FSU has had on our lives," said James Jesmer, Student Body President and a member of the Class of 2017.

Student Government Association, in addition to the Fairmont State Foundation and the Class of 2017, worked to continue the Senior Class Gift tradition, encouraging seniors to leave a lasting mark on the campus that they love. The Class of 2017 selected as its project the creation of a brick pathway in the circular area on the east side of the Falcon Center, now known as the Falcon Commons. The project allows more use of that space as a pathway between the residence halls and the Falcon Center.

Students, alumni, friends and FSU employees purchased personalized bricks for the pathway and now have the opportunity to see them as part of the new pathway. The #putabrickonit campaign raised about \$12,000.



FSU Baseball Postseason Notebook



Under second-year head coach Phil Caruso, the Fairmont State baseball team wrapped up a historic season on the diamond in 2017 – setting a new single-season mark for wins in a year with 29.

The previous high for wins in a year was 25 back in 2006 when the Falcons ended the year with a 25-30 overall record. This years

29-win season is also just the 10th for the program since 1988.

Caruso, the 2017 MEC Coach of the Year, has now led Fairmont State to a 50-53 record in two seasons at the helm of the program. FSU baseball totaled just 23 wins during the two seasons prior to Caruso taking over.

Model United Nations Team Placed Second at National Conference



Fairmont State University's Model United Nations team recently placed second as a Distinguished Delegation at the National Model United Nations Conference.

The Model UN team was first established on campus three years ago with the help of current advisor Dr. William Harrison, Assistant Professor of Political Science. This was the third year the team attended the national conference in New York City. Last

year, the team placed third as an Honorable Mention Delegation.

The purpose of Model United Nations is to represent a country as a faux delegation and attend one of the many conferences around the country. During the conference, the team's goal is to come up with resolutions to handle mock issues presented on committee agendas. These issues are based on real problems the United Nations faces.