Mission Control, We Have a Fairmont State Graduate
A Letter from the Executive Director

The Flight of a Falcon

Your alumni publication, maroon&white, has a new look and format. We are pleased to present you with the first edition of the newly redesigned alumni magazine.

Fairmont State itself has been undergoing a redesign of sorts, and we hope that this publication will keep you connected to the exciting innovations on campus and in our programs of study. This publication will honor the traditions of Fairmont State and feature people and programs of vision.

Our redesign launch focuses on technology and flight. With a solid foundation of educational excellence, Falcon graduates are able to soar high and far. Our feature alumnus, Bill Dowdell, literally reaches for the stars.

We encourage you to contribute your own personal updates and tell us your inspiring stories. Share with us what influenced you during your time at Fairmont State and what influences are shaping your life today. We take pride in your stories of success. In many ways, your successes are intertwined with Fairmont State’s. We are excited about telling your (and our) story of progress and promise.

Tell us what you think of your new publication. Send comments or personal stories to us by completing the enclosed business reply envelope, or you may contact our editorial staff at: maroonandwhite@fairmontstate.edu.

Yours in flight,

K. Jean Ahwesh
Executive Director, Fairmont State Foundation, Inc.

Where in the world is maroon&white?

We want to see the unusual places you take maroon&white. Send us a photo of yourself, a friend or family member holding a copy of maroon&white. Tell us where you are, including the location, date and names of who is in the picture with you. Get married, scuba dive or take a roller coaster ride with maroon&white; the possibilities are endless.

Please send your digital photos electronically to: maroonandwhite@fairmontstate.edu
Mission Control, we Have a Fairmont State Graduate

Bill Dowdell ’79 leads the NASA team that is responsible for the ground assembly and testing of key elements for the International Space Station, a structure he calls, “the greatest engineering feat ever taken on by mankind.”

When astronaut Mike Fincke, (pictured on cover) space-walks outside of the International Space Station, Fairmont State graduate Bill Dowdell is working to ensure his safety through technical excellence.

Bill is the Technical Operations Director and the Chief of the Mission Management Office for NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Bill and his team assemble and test key Space Station elements in the Space Station Processing Facility at the Kennedy Space Center. They work out the kinks on the ground to maximize the astronauts’ safety in orbit. During assembly and repairs of the Space Station, Bill and his team support the efforts of Mission Control in Houston to help solve problems for astronauts like Mike from millions of miles away.

On launch day, Bill serves as the International Space Station payload launch manager. He begins the day about 10 hours before launch time, taking careful steps to confirm that everything sent to the Space Station is “happy, healthy and ready for flight.”

“By far, the most exciting part of my job is launch day and supporting on-orbit assembly,” said Bill.

“The excitement and achievement of seeing all our hard work come together in space makes it all worthwhile. I couldn’t ask for a better team. The people I have met and the friends I have made during my journey at NASA are some of the most intelligent and interesting people in the world. They came to NASA because it is the primary place in the world where we can use our knowledge to send humans into space.”

Managing the team that brought power and light to the International Space Station is just one of Bill’s many accomplishments at NASA. Currently, NASA is conducting studies on bone density loss of the astronauts in the Space Station, a study that is expected to advance the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis here on Earth. This is especially important to Bill; his mother suffers from the disease.

On the horizon for Bill and his team is long-distance space travel. It is up to experts at NASA to engineer the technology to recycle air and water for long-term flight. As payload launch manager, Bill knows that carrying enough air and water on a shuttle for long-term space travel is not possible.

Previously, Bill was a shuttle test director leading the Kennedy Space Center launch team to 10 successful launches.

“Once during a launch, we experienced a main engine shutdown,” Bill said.

“It was the tensest moment I have experienced here at NASA. Although there were some stressful moments, we successfully cancelled the launch and safely removed the astronauts from the shuttle.”

During his time at Fairmont State, Bill spent a lot of time in Hunt Haught Hall. He credits professors like Dr. William Ruoff, Dr. Steve Stevenson, Dr. Elizabeth Swiger, Dr. Jim Coleman and Eleanor Ford with much of his current success.

“I received such a great education from Fairmont State, and I really needed the personal feel I got there,” Bill said. “My professors really cared about my educa-

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Space Station Fun Facts

Fact: In two years, the International Space Station will be the size of three football fields.

Fact: People have been living in the Space Station continuously for the past five years.

Fact: Astronauts stay at the Space Station for four- to six-month increments.

Fact: Most Space Station astronauts take a family photo and several CDs; however, one astronaut has taken a musical instrument.

Photo: The International Space Station over the Caspian Sea. Image credit: NASA
Flying high over the mountains of West Virginia, Fairmont State Community & Technical College has the distinction of being the only higher education institution in the state to offer professional flight training.

The Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center is the home of Fairmont State’s Flying Falcons. In addition to earning their professional pilot credentials, professional flight majors also complete a Bachelor of Science degree specializing in Aviation Business and Management. This combination provides Fairmont graduates with a competitive edge as they seek employment.

Pieter Blood, NAEC Director, said key employment opportunities for graduates of the program include professional flight instructor, military flight opportunities and jobs with civilian regional airlines.

“The need for qualified pilots who are well versed in the current homeland security regulations related to air traffic is crucial,” said Blair Montgomery, President of Fairmont State Community & Technical College.

“We’re just so excited to see the growth in the flight training program. We started with 10 students two years ago and we’re now at 40. I joke when I say we have the largest college Air Force in West Virginia, but we are the only college in West Virginia that offers these programs,” said Montgomery.

On October 19, 2005 the Federal Aviation Administration issued their formal approval for Fairmont State to operate a professional pilot training school. Under a new lease agreement with Christensen Aviation in Tulsa, Oklahoma, seven aircraft were leased in support of the professional flight program.

Future plans include establishing the Flying Falcons Precision Mission Control Team, which will participate in national flying competitions.

The Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to aerospace education, is located in the Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex at the Harrison-Marion Regional Airport in Bridgeport.

To learn more about the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center, call (304) 842-8300.

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Florida. Bill has one stepson, Ryan, who will be attending college in the fall.

To read more information on NASA missions and the International Space Station or to send the astronauts aboard a postcard, go to www.nasa.gov/home/index.html.
Alumni Notes

(Notes are published on a space-available basis. Every attempt will be made to accommodate all notes received. Some notes may be held for publication in future editions.)

Career

Tracey M. Craddock ’01 received M.A. in family and consumer sciences, emphasis in childhood development and family studies, 2003, WVU. Employed as certified child life specialist, Tod Children’s Hospital, 2004.

Robert S. Goodwin ’92 employed as director of safety and training, Associate General Contractors of Northwest Ohio. Received Certified Occupational Safety Specialist certification, 2005.

Ron G. Granitz, Jr. ’94 employed as architect, Mitchell-Mathews Architects, Charlottesville, VA. Married to Lashyra.

Carol L. (Brubaker) Habets ’94 and husband, Jean-Michel, moved to Stephens City, VA, 2005. Jean-Michel is employed with Remy International, Winchester, VA. Son, Jared, was married in Terre Haute, IN, 2005.

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Leslie D. Hardesty ’99 received M.Ed., 2005, Dakota Wesleyan University, SD. Hired as assistant track and field coach and health and exercise sciences instructor, 2005, Truman State University, MO.


James E. Holbert ’66 employed as director of jazz studies, The King’s School, Sydney, Australia. Married to Chris.

Nicole A. Holyfoeld ’03 employed as an early childhood teacher, The Ohio State University, OH.


William “Bill” V. Knott ’83 employed as director of planned giving, Presbytery of WV. Organizing a Presbyterian Foundation for WV. Married to Phyllis Knott ’85.

Manil Maskey ’00 employed as a research scientist, University of Alabama. Married to Jenika Rajbhandari.

James F. Minutelli ’94 employed as academic dean, West Virginia Junior College, Bridgeport.


William F. Pitts ’91 employed as a teacher for the Forest Hills School District, Cincinnati, OH. He and wife, Tricia, have three children: Gavin, 5, Abigail, 2, and Brandon, 4 months.

Shawn E. Pratt ’03 is an officer in the WV Army National Guard. Married to Carrie.

Brad M. Riggelman ’94 has served as a probation officer for the State of West Virginia for 10 years. Obtained M.A. in Communications, 2000.

Douglas M. Robinson ’90 employed as assistant commissioner, WV Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Children and Families, Charleston. Married to Mary.

Caroline Taylor ’00 employed as athletic trainer, Gallaudet University, Washington, DC.

Sarah E. Wine ’05 employed as a teacher for the Berkeley County Public Schools. Engaged, 2005.

Marriages/Anniversaries

Brandy M. (Taylor) Beery ’03 to Ryan Beery, October 16, 2004, Niagara Falls, Canada.


Dana R. (Corley) Richardson ’93 to Steve Richardson ’94.

Family

Laura L. (Kronjaeger) Chambers ’99 Daughter, Allysa Nichole Shelley, is a Fairmont State freshman criminal justice major.

Deaths

(Deaths are published in maroon&white at the written request of family members.)

Margaret Vargo Jozik ’36, ’46 died August 23, 2005. Margaret retired from teaching in 1982. In 1988, she was honored by the Fairmont State Alumni Association with the Outstanding Alumna Award. She had three children, Albert, Margie and Paul, and four grandchildren.

Crystal L. Stevens has returned to the home team eager to serve the alumni community as Fairmont State’s Director of Alumni Affairs. Here’s Crystal cheering on the Falcons during the Homecoming game against the University of Charleston on October 15, 2005. Crystal is a Fairmont State alumna and a Fairmont native. Her career in higher education spans over 16 years. Cheering along with Crystal are fellow alumni Porter Stiles, William Phillips, Ellen and Ronald Snyder, Jane Gabor and Steve Thompson.

Get to know Crystal at an alumni event or contact her directly at (304) 367-4375, toll free at (866) 372-ALUM or via e-mail at cstevens@fairmontstate.edu.

Save the Date!

The Trip to Bountiful

Performed by the Montana Repertory Theatre

March 27, 2006, at 7 p.m.

Wallman Hall Theatre

For ticket information and reservations, call the Box Office at (304) 367-4240. A Fine Arts Guild membership is available throughout the season. Please call or e-mail Marian J. Hollinger for information at (304) 367-4300 or mhollinger@fairmontstate.edu.

For a complete list of upcoming events at Fairmont State, please visit our web site at www.fairmontstate.edu/calendars.
The Column Society

The Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., is pleased to announce the creation of a new donor community, The Column Society. Just as the distinctive supporting pillars of Hardway Hall give the building its character, the newly formed giving society of Fairmont State will rely on the image of a column to convey the importance of this organization.

The Column Society brings together and recognizes today’s visionaries—those people who believe so deeply in Fairmont State that they contribute over $500 annually to help meet the diverse needs of our students, faculty, alumni and community.

Column Society members are the pillars of the community and their families. They provide the true foundation of support for Fairmont State.

By participating in The Column Society, individuals have an opportunity to make a personal commitment and provide a meaningful gift that will directly influence the next generation of Fairmont State students.

Ultimately, contributors have the chance to help strengthen West Virginia’s workforce and economy through the support of higher education.

The Column Society Recognition Levels

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<th>Scholars’ Club</th>
<th>Falcon Club</th>
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<td>Maroon and White Club</td>
<td>$1,000–4,999</td>
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<td>College on the Hill Club</td>
<td>$5,000–9,999</td>
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<td>Presidents’ Circle</td>
<td>Circle of Achievement</td>
<td>$10,000–49,999</td>
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<td>Circle of Wisdom</td>
<td>$50,000–99,999</td>
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<td>Trustees’ Society</td>
<td>Edgar N. Jaynes Society</td>
<td>$100,000–249,000 (cumulative)</td>
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<td>Joseph Rosier Society</td>
<td>$250,000–999,999 (cumulative)</td>
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<td>Founders’ Roundtable</td>
<td>Francis Harrison Pierpont Roundtable</td>
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<td>1865 Heritage Society</td>
<td>The 1865 Heritage Society honors those special individuals who have chosen to make a planned or deferred gift to Fairmont State through an annuity, life insurance policy, will or estate plan.</td>
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Leave Your Legacy...

Please contact Kim Riggi, director of major gifts, at (304) 367-4014 or toll free at (866) 372-ALUM or kriggi@fairmontstate.edu for information on becoming a member of The Column Society or endowing your own scholarship.

... at Fairmont State.

Fairmont State Alumni Association Gives $50,000

Budd Sapp, president of the Fairmont State Alumni Association, presents Lois Laughlin, president of the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors, with a check for $25,000. The gift is matched with $25,000 in federal funds through Fairmont State’s participation in Strengthening Institutions, an endowment-building grant from the U.S. Department of Education.
OCTOBER 2005

Our most successful telephone giving campaign ever!

Thanks to all who contributed.

**sixty-five**

percent of Neighborhood Investment Program Scholarship goal accomplished.

**$2.5 million**

FUND-RAISING GOAL FOR 2005-2006

**100%**

of our Strengthening Institutions goal was reached — 8 donors contributed $300,000, matched 100% by federal funds, totaling $600,000!

**$1,067,308**

RAISED TOWARD GOAL 2005-06

Most frequently asked question:
How much financial assistance does Fairmont State award to students each year?

answer: more than $36 million

The Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., is offering this special investment opportunity as a way of thanking our loyal benefactors.

Please call Kim Riggi, director of major gifts, at (304) 367-4014, or toll free at (866) 372-ALUM for more information or to contribute to a scholarship fund benefiting low-income students attending Fairmont State.

453 married alumni couples have given to Fairmont State.

All information is current as of January 1, 2006.
The Falcon Center (dedicated September 20, 2005)

The Falcon Center, centrally located on campus, provides an environment where students and employees can comfortably interact with one another while enjoying a variety of wellness programs, eating areas and study lounges. The campus bookstore, dining services, food court and much more are available for all to enjoy.

To schedule a tour of this beautiful new facility, contact Robin Yeager at (304) 368-7222, or via e-mail: studentcenter@fairmontstate.edu.