How Did Marvin Stewart Beat the Odds?

Education Creates the Opportunity to Lead
A Letter from the Executive Director

I hope this issue of *maroon&white* inspires you to become a leader at Fairmont State University. Perhaps you were in student government, a fraternity or sorority, or an athlete during your time here. Each time you opened a book and exposed yourself to a new point of view or raised your hand to participate in debate, you were taking the lead. Your leadership on campus at that time was important to the institution, and it is equally important now that you have become an alumnus or alumna.

In this issue of *maroon&white*, I am pleased to be able to share with you the stories of some of the many inspirational leaders and philanthropists associated with Fairmont State University.

Anyone and everyone can become a leader and a philanthropist. You need not be a millionaire to make a lasting impact. The most important aspect of philanthropy is a commitment to become involved. Leadership in life and in philanthropy is about taking action.

Philanthropy at Fairmont State University is…

• The effort or inclination to increase the well-being of FSU through a financial commitment or a commitment of time

• Belief in and vocal support of the long-range mission and goals of the institution as outlined in its Strategic Plan

• Love of Fairmont State University

I hope you will raise your hand today as you did in class in years past and take the lead by becoming involved with your alma mater. Fairmont State University is blessed with a vision for the future, which is outlined in our Strategic Plan. All it needs now are additional leaders to make that vision a reality.

Lead us to new heights; help us SOAR!

With gratitude and thanks,

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

P.S. As always, we encourage you to keep in touch. Please send comments or personal stories to us by completing the enclosed business reply envelope or contacting our editorial staff at maroonandwhite@fairmontstate.edu.
David E. Miller ’67 serves as the legislative liaison for the state’s largest university. A former state delegate and senator, Miller monitors issues in Charleston that may impact WVU and works closely with legislators and the governor’s office.

He began his employment at WVU in 2000 as Associate Dean to the WVU Davis College of Agriculture. Before that he was a teacher, principal, state deputy commissioner of agriculture and the owner of a Preston County cattle farm.

A 1967 FSC graduate, Miller earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education. He later earned an master’s degree in education administration from the University of Virginia.

Miller says he learned a lot about leadership from playing basketball for Joe Retton for four years.

“Undoubtedly without this experience I would not have been able to accomplish what I have today,” he said. “The name recognition, the self-confidence and experiences have greatly aided me in my career. I owe a lot of thanks to FSC.”

As managing editor of The Charleston Gazette, Patty Vandergrift Tompkins ’70 directs coverage of news stories that impact the state and the nation. These stories include the Sago mine disaster, problems surrounding the drug methadone and ATV safety.

Tompkins began her career as a part-time reporter at The Fairmont Times, covered the Legislature for The Dominion Post and moved on to the Gazette as a copy editor in 1983. She moved up the ranks to assistant city editor, city editor and managing editor. Her husband, the late Roger Tompkins, was the state’s Attorney General.

An East Fairmont High School graduate, she started classes at FSC in 1966, the same year her high school journalism teacher, Jane Dumire, moved from EFHS to FSC. Tompkins was managing editor and editor of The Columns.

“Working at The Columns gave me a chance to learn a lot about campus and meet people I might not have met otherwise,” she said.

Tompkins said FSC was a great fit for her. Today, her niece, Haley, is a Fairmont State student.

“In the newspaper business, you interact with people and try to understand what readers need and want to know,” she said.

“Coming from a small school helped me better identify with readers. I love being from West Virginia.”
In 1966, his father, Charles Stewart Jr., was killed in a mining accident at Eastern Coal Company, leaving Stewart’s mother, Edna, to provide for a family of seven. She supported the family as a seamstress, taking projects in the small community of Grant Town, WV. In order to help supplement the family income, Stewart went to work at age 12, doing yard work and mowing lawns.

This early tragedy sharpened Stewart’s resolve to go to college, so that he could take care of his mother and family. With little money and even less encouragement from his high school guidance counselor, the odds against his dream becoming a reality were daunting.

In 1972, Paul Adkins, a recruiter for UPS who later became Stewart’s mentor in the company, offered him a job. He began work at 3 a.m. and went to class at 8 a.m. In

“Each gift allows this endowment to impact the lives of more students. My hope is that it will inspire generations of students to persevere, no matter what obstacles stand in their path.”

— Marvin Stewart

How Did Marvin Stewart Beat the Odds?

MARVIN STEWART ’76 is no stranger to a challenge or to hard work. In 1966, his father, Charles Stewart Jr., was killed in a mining accident at Eastern Coal Company, leaving Stewart’s mother, Edna, to provide for a family of seven. She supported the family as a seamstress, taking projects in the small community of Grant Town, WV. In order to help supplement the family income, Stewart went to work at age 12, doing yard work and mowing lawns.

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“It is an inherent responsibility in all of us to try to make a difference in society and leave it better than what we found it to be.”

— Marvin Stewart

Marvin Stewart is sporting the fashions of the day during his time at Fairmont State.
“When my counselor told me that I could not make it to college, to stop thinking about it, I reached deep inside myself, and I knew that I would prove him wrong. There was no money, and no one in my family had gone to college, but I did not accept the idea that I could not make it. I entered Fairmont State in 1971.”

— Marvin Stewart

1974, he was promoted to part-time supervisor at UPS. After five years of work and study, Stewart graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

“Education and family gave me the strength to advance in life and at UPS,” said Stewart. “Each degree I received brought me more responsibility and challenges at work. I am fortunate to work for a company that allows its employees to grow.”

Stewart’s journey of success brought him full circle back to Fairmont State University. In 2005, he established The Reverend Richard Bowyer Wesley Foundation Endowment Fund by taking advantage of the UPS matching gift program. The endowment provides financial assistance to students attending FSU and for needs of the Wesley Foundation. Stewart has fond memories of the Rev. Richard Bowyer, who provided guidance to student members of Fairmont State’s Black Student Union. In 2006, Stewart joined the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors.

“I felt this was a good time in my life to start giving back,” said Stewart. “I used the UPS matching gift program to maximize the level of my personal gift and start the endowment fund. Rev. Bowyer was a mentor to me and helped a number of other students like me who were struggling to make it through school and on the verge of giving up.”

Stewart and his wife of 33 years, Phyllis, reside in West Chester, PA. He currently serves as the Metro Philadelphia District Community Relations Manager and is a senior partner and owner at UPS. The Stewarts have four children: Autumn, 30; Kristen, 21; Danielle, 20; and Matthew, 18.

In his capacity as a board member, Stewart is working to raise the level of the endowment fund he established to $100,000. If you would like to make a gift to The Reverend Richard Bowyer Wesley Foundation Endowment Fund, you may mail your check in the enclosed business reply envelope at the center of this publication. Please be sure to designate that you would like your gift applied to the Richard Bowyer Wesley Foundation Endowment Fund.

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2007 Alumni Events Coming

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3**  
Greater DC/Baltimore, MD

Reception at the home of John ’58 and Evelyn ’58 Cassell  
7011 Spaniel Drive  
Springfield, VA 22153  
(703) 644–0843  
4 to 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20**  
Pittsburgh, PA

The Andy Warhol Museum  
117 Sandusky Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
(412) 237–8300  
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Hosted by Alumni Affairs and the Presidents’ Leadership Council  
$10 per person

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24**  
Morgantown, WV

Reception at the home of John ’65 and Nancy Raley  
312 Rotary Street  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
4 to 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 22**  
Akron/Cleveland, OH

Carousel Dinner Theatre  
1275 E. Waterloo Road  
Akron, OH 44306  
(330) 724–9855  
2 to 3 p.m. Social  
3 p.m. Dinner  
5 p.m. Showing of “Always…Patsy Cline”  
$20 per person

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18**  
Snowshoe, WV

Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival  
10 Snowshoe Drive  
Snowshoe, WV 26303  
Hosted by the Alumni Association

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22**  
Richmond, VA

Capital Ale House  
4024-A Cox Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
(804) 780–2537  
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Hosted by Mary Jo Thomas ’66  
$10 per person

Crab Feast, Summer 2006, District of Columbia Metropolitan Area

Falcons share the stands with Mountaineers at an FSU vs. WVU exhibition basketball game, November 5, 2006.

Sigma Sigma Sigma reunion July 15, 2006 (see page 13 for more information)
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24
Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Museum of Art
West Foyer
26th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19130
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dinner and Live Jazz
Hosted by Marvin ’76 and Phyllis ’78 Stewart
$15 per person

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Parkersburg, WV

Blennerhassett Hotel
320 Market Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
5:30 to 8 p.m. Dinner
Hosted by Alumni Affairs
$10 per person

OCTOBER 8 - 13
Fairmont, WV

Homecoming 2007

In the Works

JULY/AUGUST
Washington, DC

Crab Feast is back!
The park service will announce the date and location in mid-April.

Newport Beach, CA

Recent Events

If you have digital photos of recent events in New York or Florida that you would like to share for publication, please e-mail them to Jessica Sharps at maroonandwhite@fairmontstate.edu. All photos submitted and used will be credited in the publication.
Ceremony Honors the Life of Rae Carroll Ramage

A dedication ceremony honoring the life and philanthropic service of Rae Carroll Ramage ’33 was held on Wednesday, January 24, on the second floor of the education building at Fairmont State University.

Displays honoring the late Rae Carroll Ramage; her brother Robert Carroll, Ph.D.; and her husband, Dr. Chesney McCauley Ramage were unveiled and a reception followed.

Born in Morgantown on Dec. 20, 1913, Rae Carroll Ramage was one of six children. She graduated from Barrackville High School in 1930 and obtained her Bachelor of Arts in English in 1933 from Fairmont State College.

In May 1937, Ramage became the financial secretary at the Fairmont Emergency Hospital, located on Guffey Street. She met and married Chesney McCauley Ramage, M.D., the superintendent of the hospital, in 1941. In 1946, she received her nursing diploma from the hospital and joined her husband in private practice.

Following the death of her husband in 1957, she began work as an evening charge nurse at Fairmont General Hospital on the fifth floor. After a long career at Fairmont General, she retired in 1983.

“Her passing leaves a void for me, because we had a special relationship for many years. I would characterize that of being her administrative assistant to carry out her directives. She loved Fairmont and truly was one of its remarkable, as well as colorful, people.”

— Ray Alvarez, executor, Ramage Estate

“Rae Carroll Ramage was a unique person,” said Ray Alvarez. “She always exemplified the highest standards as a nursing professional. She was also very supportive of the hospital, her church and community. Her gifts to FSU, as well as many local charitable organizations, were well thought out as to their intent and practicality. Her passing leaves a void for me, because we had a special relationship for many years. I would characterize that of being her administrative assistant to carry out her directives. She loved Fairmont and truly was one of its remarkable, as well as colorful, people. She sought not to honor her own memory, but others whom she loved.”

Ramage devoted her later years to the philanthropic support of medicine and higher education. In 1994, she established the Chesney McCauley Ramage Endoscopy Unit in support of outpatient services at Fairmont General Hospital. To honor the memory of her younger brother, a renowned physicist, she established the annual Robert L. Carroll Memorial Scientific Lectureship at Fairmont State University and created an endowed chair in physics in his name at the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University. Upon her death, the Rae Carroll Ramage Endowed Scholarship Fund was established at the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., through her estate to support nursing scholarships in the School of Nursing and Allied Health Administration at Fairmont State University.

Gifts in memory of Rae Carroll Ramage may be enclosed in the envelope at the center of the publication. To discuss estate planning and other legacy gift options, please contact Mike Shaw, director of major gifts, at (304) 367-4014 or toll free at (866) 372-2586.
Endowments Benefit the School of Nursing

More than 250 students are currently pursuing degrees in the School of Nursing and Allied Health Administration, and over 1,800 Fairmont State graduates are practicing in health care positions and facilities throughout the country. Graduates with a bachelor’s degree in nursing can pursue a master’s degree in nursing through a collaborative graduate program with Marshall University at Fairmont State.

“Endowments are a bedrock of support on which we build and grow our programs. They are a wonderful way to perpetually honor a nursing professional or a family member who has impacted your life in a positive way.”
— Dr. M. Sharon Boni, Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health Administration

The following funds are established to support the programs and students of the School of Nursing and Allied Health Administration. Gifts in support of any or all of these funds may be sent in the enclosed business reply envelope at the center of the publication.

- School of Nursing and Allied Health General Scholarship Fund
- S.M. Kisner Endowed Scholarship
- Harry and Margaret Lamb Endowed Scholarship
- Mary Reitz Leeming Memorial Scholarship
- Juanita “Fletch” Pearson Memorial Scholarship
- Andee Pollastrini Scholarship
- Claude and Stazie Morris Rader Nursing Scholarship
- Rae Carroll Ramage Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Madge Rogers Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Cooper Joseph Towns Memorial Scholarship for Nursing

If you would like to make a gift to the Andee Pollastrini Scholarship, or any of the other endowments in support of the School of Nursing and Allied Health Administration, please mail your check and designate which fund you would like to support, by using the business reply envelope in the center of this publication.
Fairmont State University’s Celebration of Ideas Lecture Series brings nationally prominent speakers of diverse viewpoints to campus each fall and spring. Speakers are booked based on student interest and requests made to the Office of Student Affairs. Yearly student fees help defray the cost to bring each speaker to campus.

One of the institution’s goals is to stimulate and challenge the mind with viewpoints and ideas that spark discussion, debate and dialogue. The Celebration of Ideas Lecture Series brings exceptional, sometimes provocative, individuals of all races, professional backgrounds and political persuasions to create a climate of balanced, intellectual conversation and discovery.

“We have a diverse student body with many areas of interest, and their choices of speakers reflect that,” said Michael Belmear, vice president for student affairs. “Fairmont State University takes great pride in its commitment to providing an atmosphere in which all viewpoints can be examined through the lens of each academic discipline. One of the key components of good stewardship and citizenship is the ability to listen thoughtfully to all sides of an issue with respect. Only then is one able to make well-reasoned, informed choices and decisions.”

Speakers for the 2006-07 academic year include:

- Prominent anti-racist writer Tim Wise
- Leading journalist Juan Williams
- Author, educator and political strategist Donna Brazile
- Scholar, entrepreneur and leader Dr. Randal Pinkett
- Native West Virginian, author and former gossip columnist Jeannette Walls
- Author and poet Ha Jin (see ad on page 13)

Celebration of Ideas Lecture Series events are free and open to the public. The University encourages all alumni and community members to attend with their families. If you are an alumnus or alumna and you have a recommendation for a future speaker, please contact Persis Bates, coordinator of multicultural affairs, at (304) 367-4950.

If your business or corporation is interested in underwriting a Celebration of Ideas Lecture Series event, contact K. Jean Ahwesh, executive director, Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., at (304) 367-4164.

“Fairmont State University takes great pride in its commitment to providing an atmosphere in which all viewpoints can be examined.”

— Michael Belmear

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Leaders in Their Field: Celebration of Ideas Lecture Series

**Maya Angelou**
**Steve Bell**
**Tucker Carlson**
**James Carville**
**Ron Clark**
**Dr. Zebulon R. Davenport**
**Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.**
**Jasmine Guy**
**Charles Johnson**
**Cleve Jones**
**Daniel Katz**
**Alan Keyes**
**Dr. Julianne Malveaux**
**J. Davitt McAteer**
**Oliver L. North**
**Robert Novak**
**Edward James Olmos**
**John Quinones**
**The Rev. Al Sharpton**
**Sue Thomas**
**Dr. Cornel West**
**Robin Wright**

Juan Williams and Crystal Stevens, director of alumni affairs, at the October 2006 Lecture Series

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“Leaders in Their Field: Celebration of Ideas Lecture Series”

A few of the Celebration of Ideas Past Speakers

Maya Angelou
Steve Bell
Tucker Carlson
James Carville
Ron Clark
Dr. Zebulon R. Davenport
Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.
Jasmine Guy
Charles Johnson
Cleve Jones
Daniel Katz
Alan Keyes
Dr. Julianne Malveaux
J. Davitt McAteer
Oliver L. North
Robert Novak
Edward James Olmos
John Quinones
The Rev. Al Sharpton
Sue Thomas
Dr. Cornel West
Robin Wright
Maya Angelou is a celebrated American poet, educator, historian, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director. Angelou has authored 12 best-selling books. In January 1993, she became only the second poet in U.S. history to have the honor of writing and reciting original work at the Presidential Inauguration. Photo by Dwight Carter.

J. Davitt McAteer, a native of Fairmont, is acknowledged worldwide as a leading authority in mine safety. He authored pioneering work on the subject and serves as a consultant to unions, governments and industries from South Africa to China to Eastern Europe.

Oliver L. North is a combat-decorated Marine, best-selling author, syndicated columnist and the host of “War Stories” on the FOX News Channel. Photo courtesy of FOX News Channel.

John Quinones is a co-anchor of “Primetime” and was most recently a correspondent for “Primetime Thursday” and “20/20.” Photo courtesy of ABC.
Start a Fairmont State Alumni Chapter

Fairmont State alumni, friends and fans are located throughout West Virginia and much of the United States. This Falcon-loving group includes over 24,000 alumni.

While those who live near Fairmont continue to participate in life on the hill, others are not so fortunate. Alumni Association chapters can help restore and maintain the Fairmont State connection that is so special to those who know and love the “college on the hill,” but do not live near enough to regularly attend campus events.

Chapter goals include:
• Assisting and supporting Fairmont State University’s mission
• Promoting and enhancing the FSU image in each chapter’s community
• Helping the Alumni Association achieve its mission through activities such as student recruitment, active membership, community relations and student assistance programs
• Providing an enjoyable opportunity for all alumni and friends in a region to come together for social and intellectual enrichment

To find out how to start a successful chapter, go to www.fairmontstate.edu, choose the Alumni link and download the Chapter Guidelines. This PDF document will provide you with a step-by-step plan for beginning your chapter.

Crystal Stevens, director of alumni affairs, is available at (304) 367-4375 or toll free at (866) 372-2586 to discuss your options. Her e-mail address is cstevens@fairmontstate.edu.

**SIX KEYS TO ENSURE CHAPTER SUCCESS**

- **Select** a group of officers to organize chapter activities
- **Host** at least two organized events a year
- **Plan** a calendar of events one year in advance and coordinate with the Fairmont State Office of Alumni Affairs to market events through the mail and online
- **Provide** important post-event information to the Office of Alumni Affairs for publicity including: an article covering the event, photographs of the event, and names and contact information of attendees
- **Consider** group activities that will engage everyone: service projects, planned local outings to sporting and arts events or fund-raising projects in support of a chapter scholarship for current Fairmont State students
- **Be** creative and committed
Alumni Notes

Career
Kathy R. Andreas ’71 is co-owner and assistant manager of Plumbing Services, an S.C. master licensed and bonded business. She is retired from the education field.

John Cyrus ’88 recently completed his Master of Divinity at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY. He is serving as pastor of First Baptist Church in Prospect, KY.

Richard M. Kennedy ’52 is singing with the Amherst Male Glee Club, Buffalo, NY, and the Barbershop Chorus, Warsaw, NY.

Marriages/Anniversaries
Felix Colosino ’56 and wife, Bonnie, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July. They have four sons and seven grandchildren, and reside in Destrehan, LA.

Joseph Diamond ’56 and Marie Diamond ’55 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. They are now living in Annapolis, MD.

Christopher L. Sharps ’06 married Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., employee Jessica Holling, October 21, 2006, in Morgantown. Sharps graduated with a Regents Bachelor of Arts and is currently employed by the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston as a pastoral associate.

Holling is a ’05 graduate from Shippensburg University, PA, and began working for the Foundation in September. She currently serves as alumni giving associate. The couple resides in Fairmont.

Family
Alpha Kappa Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, chartered at FSU in 1932, celebrated its first-ever reunion July 15–16, 2006. More than 150 women from across the nation and as far away as Taiwan traveled to Fairmont for the event. Fairmont Mayor Nick Fantasia issued a proclamation naming July 15, 2006, as Sigma Sigma Sigma Day. Members of the 2006 Reunion Committee were Rophe Woods, Becky Westwood, Stephanie Utt ’06, Linda O. Morgan ’66, Amy Younkins ’02, Judy P. Byers ’69, Leslie VanZant ’97, Sally W. Tarley, Dina S. Smith ’70, Penny C. Roberts ’71, Jeanie V. Dotson ’73, Nancy C. Radcliff ’60, Pamela C. Stalnaker ’71, Sharon H. Smith, Sharon S. DeLorenzo ’63, Mykie W. Reagan ’67, Betty D. Boyers ’63, Nancy B. Lawler ’71, Dixie B. Copley ’71, Diane P. Burnside ’74, Michele Plutro ’73, Joyce L. Evans ’72 and Louise S. Lawson ’79.

Phil A. Colangelo ’62 resides in West Chester, PA.

Michael Rogers ’65 and Janet Swearingen Rogers ’65 moved to Oswego, IL.

Warren B. Wysner ’48 moved to Pawleys Island, SC.

Obituaries
Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Haller ’79, a high-ranking soldier in the Maryland Army National Guard who taught classes at the guard’s training facility at Camp Fretterd, was one of 12 soldiers killed when a Black Hawk helicopter crashed northeast of Baghdad, January 20, 2007. He was 49. Haller was the second-in-command of the guard’s HQ 70th Regiment (LDR), where he trained soldiers in a variety of disciplines including ethics, personnel management and military history. Haller worked in construction and as a plumber before returning to the guard full-time. Haller’s son, Sgt. Daniel Haller, served tours in Afghanistan and Iraq and came home shortly before his father was deployed. Sandy Hockman ’80, the mother of Haller’s three children, was married to Haller for more than 20 years. She said of her late ex-husband, “He would want to be remembered as a citizen who believed in our constitution, believed in our freedoms, believed we should do something like everyday stand up and pledge to the flag.”
Fairmont State University will benefit from a $500,000 gift made to the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., by alumni Frank ‘61 and Jane ‘60 Gabor. The Gabors’ gift will be matched with $200,000 from Fairmont State University, as part of a capital building challenge that was initiated last spring.

“We chose to direct this gift to the naming of the West Virginia Folklife Center, because of Jane’s love of the arts, and because we are extremely proud of our West Virginia heritage,” said Frank Gabor.

The gift will be used to renovate and restore the historic Kennedy Barn on the west side of campus. The Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center at Fairmont State University will maintain one of the richest archives of Appalachian culture, art and history in the country, and a portion of Fairmont State’s extensive, vintage costume collection, currently valued at more than $100,000. It will serve the Fairmont State University campus and community as a welcome center and folklife exhibition center, while providing much-needed archival, classroom and lab space for students in folklife, museum studies and applied design programs.

“Frank and Jane have always shown foresight in their selection of investments at Fairmont State, choosing projects that benefit not only the institution, but also the greater community as a whole,” said K. Jean Ahwesh, executive director, Fairmont State Foundation, Inc.

“Our generous financial commitment will inspire the community to come to the table as investors in support of the restoration of the Kennedy Barn. It is this kind of leadership that really drives progress at Fairmont State.”

— K. Jean Ahwesh

For more information on capital building, naming opportunities or to create an endowment in support of scholarships or programs at Fairmont State, contact Mike Shaw at (304) 367-4014 or toll free at (866) 372-2586.

Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center

Gabor Family Fast Facts

The Gabors co-own five About Faces Day Spas in Maryland.

Frank is a member of the TBI fraternity.

Jane was the 1955 FSU Homecoming Queen and Miss Central West Virginia.

Frank is the 2003 Outstanding Alumni Award winner.

Jane is a member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority.

Frank is a 1999 Letterman of Distinction Award winner.
## BEHIND THE NUMBERS

### $1,641,134

Raised toward 2006-07 fund raising goal of $3 million

![Image](image-url)

### $56,109 total gifts for the fall 2006 Student Calling Campaign. Thank You.

Spring Calling Campaign runs April 15–30, 2007.

### Frequently Asked Question:

**What is an endowed fund?**

**Answer:** An endowed fund is created when a donor makes a principal gift of $10,000 or more. The principal gift amount accumulates earnings which pay for scholarship awards or other purposes specified by the donor, such as capital building projects, professorships or program support. The principal gift remains intact in perpetuity.

### 92.2%

of the Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) tax credits have been distributed to donors, resulting in **$93,808** in immediate, impact scholarships for low-income* WV students.

### $3 MILLION

**FUND RAISING GOAL FOR 2006-07**

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**The Strengthening Institutions Phase II Endowment Challenge**

provides $100,000 in Foundation funds to be matched by $400,000 in private donations.

Each challenge participant makes a minimum, tax-deductible gift of $50,000. This private investment is matched at 25 percent with Foundation funds up to $100,000.

For example, a donor making a $50,000 gift receives $12,500 in matching funds from the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc. The total endowment gift becomes $62,500.

This is a limited opportunity to dramatically increase the size and impact of your personal endowment. To make an endowment gift and take advantage of the Strengthening Institutions Phase II Endowment Challenge, contact K. Jean Ahwesh at (304) 367-4164 or toll free at (866) 372-2586.

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**MINIMUM GIFTS**

- **$10,000**...To create a general-purpose endowment
- **$25,000**...To create a specific-purpose, named endowment
- **$2 million**...To endow a program or school at FSU

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*Low-income student is defined as a student whose household income is less than 125% of the federal poverty level.

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All information is current as of December 31, 2006.
Dr. David Bonasso accepts an honorary Doctorate of Philanthropy on behalf of his father, Russell F. Bonasso, at the December 2006 Commencement ceremony. Russell F. Bonasso, who was unable to attend the ceremony because of illness, was represented by his son David, who delivered his father's commencement address to the graduating class.

Bonasso ’96, a Harrison County native, is the father of 12 children, grandfather to 49 and great-grandfather to six. He graduated summa cum laude from Fairmont State University at the age of 74, and is a master's level student of history at West Virginia University. The Marion County Commission proclaimed September 3, 1997, as Russell F. Bonasso Day. In 2004, he was named Man of the Year for Southern Italy for his humanitarian efforts following World War II. He received the Fairmont State University President’s Award for Service in that same year.