Where Did Fairmont State Take You?

Gary LeDonne Succeeds in The Big Apple
A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Alumni and Friends of FSU:

Where has Fairmont State taken you? That is the question we are asking all of our alumni and friends this fall.

Fairmont State has made a difference in the lives of those who have passed through its doors while on their journey through life. Alumni and friends make a forever difference in the lives of current and future students.

The college experience is so much more than receiving a degree. It is about having choices and making decisions, receiving direction and taking advantage of opportunities, building relationships that will last a lifetime, and seeing the world in a new light.

In this Homecoming Edition of maroon&white, you will be reminded of your time at Fairmont State, as you read about others who found their direction here. Though their journeys in life may have taken them far beyond Fairmont, they return to their alma mater to celebrate where they have been and where they are going.

You, too, can celebrate your journey at Fairmont State by:

• Updating your alumni record and sharing your Alumni Notes at http://www.fairmontstate.edu
• Honoring a forever Falcon through a memorial gift
• Leaving a legacy for generations to come through a will or estate plan gift

Whatever tie binds you to Fairmont State, I hope you will be able to come back and celebrate your experience here as a significant juncture in your life’s journey.

Return to campus for Falcons are Forever Homecoming 2008, October 20–25, 2008. For more information on the scheduled events for Homecoming, please visit www.fairmontstate.edu and click on the Homecoming 2008 link.

If you are unable to participate in Homecoming this fall, but would like to schedule a campus visit at another time, please contact Devanna Corley, director of alumni affairs, at (304) 367-4375, or toll free at (866) 372-ALUM (2586).

Falcons truly are forever,

K. Jean Ahwesh

P.S. Share your Fairmont State story with us! Please contact our office at (304) 367-4009 or toll free at (866) 372-2586.
The “Where in the world is maroon&white?” Contest

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.

Do you recognize this Fairmont State icon?
If so, you could be qualified to win a Homecoming 2008 Family-of-Four Prize Pack.

To enter, simply send the correct answer to maroonandwhite@fairmontstate.edu by October 10. The winner will be notified on October 15. Don’t forget to include your name, graduation year, phone number and address.

Hint: Greeks, athletes, engineers and more, everyone gathers around me to celebrate the score.

Fairmont State Alumnus: Shaping West Virginia

This series recognizes prominent Fairmont State graduates who have made great contributions to West Virginia, shaping our state’s future through their dedication and influence.

Chances are, you know his name. Bill Stewart ’75 was named West Virginia University’s 32nd head football coach a day after leading the Mountaineers to a remarkable victory in the 2008 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. But what you may not know is that Stewart’s journey began at Fairmont State.

A native of New Martinsville, Stewart is an education graduate, and a three-year letterman and team captain for the 1974 WVIAC-champion Fighting Falcons. Stewart’s lengthy coaching career began at Fairmont State, where he was a student assistant coach for a season, before becoming an assistant coach at Sistersville High School in 1975. He earned a master’s degree in health and physical education from WVU in 1977. He then moved to Salem College, where he was an assistant football and head track coach for two seasons.

In 1979, he moved to the University of North Carolina and was later an assistant at Marshall University, William & Mary, North Carolina, Arizona State and Air Force. From 1994 to 1996, Stewart was head football coach at VMI. He moved on to the Canadian Football League, where he served as offensive coordinator of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and as offensive line coach for the Montreal Alouettes.

Stewart came to WVU as a quarterbacks coach in 2000, spending seven seasons in that role. He was named associate head coach in 2007 and also served as special teams coordinator. Appointed as interim coach following Rich Rodriguez’s resignation, Stewart was named head coach following the Mountaineers’ historic bowl win.

First and foremost, Stewart said he thanks God for Fairmont State College. He said he is thankful that FSC took a chance on a young man who often thought that he was not destined for much.

“Fairmont got me out of my driveway and molded me and influenced me to be the man and coach I am today,” said Stewart. “Folks like Mike Skinner, Jim Priester, Bill Phillips, Jim Young, Jean Ward, Squibb Wilson, Larry Hill, Deacon Duvall, Mike Arcure and Jo Jo Retton were great leaders and great influences. The folks at FSC had a sense of pride, and they didn’t want to let anyone down. I don’t want to let anyone down.”

He and his wife, Karen ’77, have one son, Blaine.
LIKE MOST FRESHMEN IN COLLEGE, Gary LeDonne ’84 always knew that education was important and that success was on his horizon; what he didn’t know was what road to take to get there.

Born and raised in Fairmont, the son of Anthony and Lola LeDonne, Gary LeDonne was a first-generation college student. He knew he could not afford to go far from home.

“After graduating from Fairmont Senior High School in 1980, my only consideration was Fairmont State,” said LeDonne. “The convenient cross-town commute, small class sizes and the opportunity to work while taking classes worked great for me.”

While completing his general education courses, LeDonne enrolled in Joan Lawrence’s introduction to accounting and began to excel. Upon the successful completion of this core business class, he signed up for intermediate accounting, and

Gary LeDonne reaches big city dreams.

“The harder I worked, the luckier I got.”

Gary with his parents, Anthony and Lola LeDonne.
his future began to take shape.

Glenn Harman, retired business professor, instructed LeDonne’s intermediate accounting course and noticed his work ethic. He introduced LeDonne to the concept of becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and potentially working for a “Big 8” accounting firm.

“Gary’s innate ability, self-confidence and strong commitment to task were early indicators of a high probability of the successful career he has fashioned,” said Harman.

Shortly after, LeDonne declared a major in accounting with a minor in banking and became interested in every aspect of finance. His road to success was being shaped each day he attended class on the hill.

“After learning about the ‘Big 8,’ my goal was to work for one of these companies,” said LeDonne.

During LeDonne’s junior year, Glenn Harman helped secure his place in the world of accounting by offering him a summer job that further developed the skills that have helped him succeed.

But as most people know, the path to success is often a bumpy one, and LeDonne received a large bump during his senior year.

“As graduation approached, I sent out letters of interest to all eight of the large accounting firms, and each was returned with a stamp of rejection,” he said. “Looking for direction, I met with Professor Harman, who suggested that I pursue a master professional accountancy degree from WVU to further my education and gain access to the ‘Big 8’ firm recruiters.”

LeDonne’s newfound dream of success at a “Big 8” firm was not something he was willing to let go. Following Professor Harman’s suggestion, he enrolled in the master of professional accountancy program at West Virginia University in March 1984.

LeDonne was the top accounting student enrolled in the program in 1984 and worked as a graduate teaching assistant. Within the first six months of enrollment in the master’s program, the tide had turned, and not only was he the top accounting student enrolled in the program, but also he had received offers from six of the top eight accounting firms.

In 1985, LeDonne continued his path to success, when he began his professional career with Ernst & Whinney. By 1997, he was admitted into the partnership of Ernst & Young. In 1998, after two years in the firm’s Columbus, OH, office, he transferred to Ernst & Young’s New York location.

Today, LeDonne serves clients in many industries, with particular focus in financial services as the national director of state and local tax services. He is responsible for over 600 Ernst & Young tax professionals in offices across North and South America. As a senior partner, he is involved in all aspects of the firm’s tax practice, including strategy, operations, client relations and quality.

LeDonne’s road to success began at Fairmont State, and he has never forgotten his days on the hill. “I was fortunate to create my future at Fairmont State, and I am thankful for the education I received,” he said. “Fairmont State has and will always remain in my heart.”

LeDonne gives back to Fairmont State through his time, serving on the Fairmont State Presidents’ Leadership Council; through his talent, lecturing on campus about tax laws and issues and delivering the 2008 Spring Commencement address; and most recently through his treasure, establishing the LeDonne Family Scholarship with his wife, Renee ‘80.

“And I know that my path in life may have been very different if it had not started at Fairmont State,” said LeDonne.

Please let us know how Fairmont State helped shape your path to success. E-mail your Alumni Notes to maroonandwhite@fairmont-state.edu for publication.
Homecoming Events ‘08

Thursday, October 16
Celebration of Ideas
Lecture Series:
Bob Tinnell ‘83
7 p.m., Turley Center Ballroom

Come and hear acclaimed graphic novel and comic book writer, motion picture screenwriter, director and producer, Bob Tinnell.

October 20–25
Alumni Welcome Center
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Erickson Alumni Center

The Alumni Center, located at 1300 Locust Avenue, will be open October 20-25, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to answer any questions you may have about events and programs. Coffee and pastries will be provided by the Fairmont State Alumni Association.

Monday, October 20
Falcons Volleyball Game & James Bond Characters Look-Alike Contest
7 p.m., Joe Retton Arena, $5

Thursday, October 23
Education Quad Ribbon-Cutting
2 p.m., Quad Area

Nursing Simulation Lab Open House
2:30 p.m., Education Building

See the new face of nursing education and help support this important project. Refreshments will be available.

Homecoming Parade
6 p.m., Downtown Fairmont

Alumni Award Winners’ Meet and Greet
Following the Homecoming Parade, Erickson Alumni Center

Join the Fairmont State Alumni Association immediately following the parade for coffee and pastries provided by the Alumni Association.

Pep Rally
7 p.m., Falcon Center, Gym 1
Friday, October 24
Emeritus Luncheon
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Falcon Center, 3rd Floor, Conference Rooms
Tickets: Advance—$15, Door—$20

Honor the golden anniversary of our 1958 graduates with their induction into the Emeritus Club.

Alumni Reunion/Hall of Fame & Championship Team Social
5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Falcon Center, 3rd Floor, Conference Rooms

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Anniversary Honoring of Championship Teams
6:30 p.m., Falcon Center, Gym 1, Tickets: $25

A complete list of those being honored can be found on page 10.

Alumni Association Hospitality Suite
8 to 10 p.m., Falcon Center, 3rd Floor, Conference Rooms

Saturday, October 25
Alumni Awards Brunch
10 a.m., Falcon Center, Gym 1, Tickets: Advance—$15, Door—$20

Join us for our annual, signature event honoring the six alumni award winners of 2008. See pages 8 and 9 for complete award-winner profiles.

Alumni Decade Tailgate
12 p.m., Duvall-Rosier Field

Alumni celebrating their 10-, 20-, 30-, 40- or 50-year reunions are invited to reconnect with fellow alumni at this featured event. For more information, contact Devanna Corley, (866) 372-2586, or via e-mail at dcorley2@fairmontstate.edu.

Fairmont State University vs. West Virginia Wesleyan
1 p.m., Duvall-Rosier Field, Tickets: Adults—$8, Children 14 and under—$2

Don’t forget to stop by the Alumni Association tent for free snacks, and register to win a basket of FSU items. Homecoming Coronation at halftime.

Post-game Reception
Erickson Alumni Center Immediately following the game, Erickson Alumni Center

Come and Meet Deacon Duvall
Saturday, October 25
10 a.m. to 1 p.m
FSU Bookstore, Falcon Center

Meet the Deacon and have your copy of “Duvall Football, Winning a National Championship” signed.

Annual Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center Gala and Barn Raising Celebration
6 to 9 p.m., Colebank Hall, Tickets: Adults—$20, Children 12 and under—Free

Join us as the B.B. Maurer Folklife Scholar Award is presented and participate in the silent auction. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Judy Byers, director, at (304) 367-4286 or (304) 367-4403. All proceeds benefit the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center.

Hotel Accommodations
Please reserve your rooms early as space is limited. The north central WV area is heavily booked during October. Don’t forget to request the Fairmont State preferred room rate.

Holiday Inn
930 East Grafton Road
Fairmont, WV 26554
Reservations: (304) 366-5500
$60 per night

Fairfield Inn & Suites
27 Southland Drive
Fairmont, WV 26554
Reservations: (304) 367-9150
$65 double/$75 king/$85 suite

Comfort Inn & Suites
1185 Airport Road
Fairmont, WV 26554
Reservations: (304) 367-1370
$59 king or double/$68 suite
Marie Prezioso taught a semester at Fairmont State College after receiving her master’s degree in business administration in 1975.

She went on to work seven years in West Virginia state government as acting director of investments and senior investment officer in the State Treasurer’s Office, director of the municipal bond commission and deputy commissioner of finance and administration during Gov. Rockefeller’s administration.

In 1984, Prezioso left state government to begin a career as a public finance investment banker. She is currently a trustee for the West Virginia Investment Management Board, member of the Board of Advisors for the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics and member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee.

Prezioso was named the 2002 Italian American Woman of the Year at the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival and received Distinguished West Virginian awards from Governor Caperton in 1995 and Governor Wise in 2002.

Tom Lopes is a 1966 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in education. He began his professional career as an educator and then developed his passion to become an NCAA basketball official.

His love for basketball officiating began at Fairmont State College, when he took a class taught by Coach Joe Retton. He began his officiating career with the Fairmont State intramural activities program. He continued on to the high-school level and quickly advanced to the collegiate setting.

Lopes’ officiating highlights include 12 New Jersey state finals, two Tournament of Champions, 26 NIT appearances, eight NIT championship games, 21 Holiday Festival appearances, 10 Holiday Festival championship games, 19 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, and three Final Four games in 1995, 2003 and 2007.

The highlight of his career came in 1997, when he received the Naismith Award for Outstanding College Official of the year. Lopes takes pride in the integrity and love for college basketball that he brings to each game as he takes the floor. He is the executive director of the College Basketball Officials Association (CBOA) and travels in that capacity to represent referees and conduct workshops and clinics. Lopes is passionate about helping officials work up through the ranks.

Lopes and his wife, Nancy, have three children: Thomas, Jennifer and David.

Naomi “Nicki” Boyers Hovatter is a 1925 and 1927 graduate. She obtained an education degree from the Fairmont State Normal School in 1925 and received her AB in 1927. She went on to become a podiatrist and opened a practice in Fairmont, where she served many young athletes and community members.

Hovatter has been an active member of a number of organizations over the years, including the Eastern Star, of which she has been a member for the past 59 years. Her work with young men and women includes serving on the advisory board for the Rainbow Girls, chaperoning trips,

To nominate an alumnus or alumna, send a letter of nomination, including a biography and details of the nominee’s accomplishments, to Devanna Corley, director of alumni relations, 1201 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, WV 26554. Deadline for nominations is November 1, 2008.
sponsoring social functions and being an outstanding role model. She celebrated her 100th birthday in October 2007 and attributes her longevity to not resenting growing old and realizing that many are denied the privilege. She was married to the late Harry Hovatter and attends Gateway United Methodist Church.

Frank Gearde, Jr. received his bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1960. Upon graduation, Gearde went on to work for the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 1982, Gearde was appointed director of the department’s Office of Operations, responsible for the department’s $2.1 billion program, overseeing 15,000 worldwide facilities.

Gearde received many awards during his 30-year career with the USDA. These include the Secretary’s Special Merit Award for Outstanding Cost Reduction in 1969; Superior Performance Merits in 1973, 1975 and 1978; Senior Executive Service Performance Awards for Outstanding Service from 1981-1987; the General Service Administration’s Public Service Award in 1988; and an Excellence in Administration Award in 1986.

Gearde currently resides in Hobe Sound, FL, with his wife, Carolyn. They have three children: Sheryl, Michael and Leslie.

Kristie Latocha received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 1989 and went on to complete her master’s degree in reading at West Virginia University.

From 1990 to 2000, Latocha worked as a public school teacher for Marion County. She then began her career in FSU’s School of Education as a supervisor of elementary school teachers, public school teaching fellow, and a temporary full-time instructor. She currently works for Pierpont Community & Technical College as the program manager and adjunct instructor of the School of Human Resources.

Latocha’s awards include the 2007 RESA VII Exemplary Teacher Award, and she is a 2008 Teacher Leadership Institute nominee for Marion County. She has also been awarded grants, including the Bowers Charitable Trust Foundation grant for $18,000 to establish a community playground in Barrackville, and a WV Technology grant for $146,000 to establish a computer laboratory at Blacksheire Elementary.

Latocha has been married for 18 years and has three children: Brandon, Kailee and Emilee. She currently resides in Fairmont.

Chad M. Riley is a 1995 graduate. He became the third generation in his family to graduate from Fairmont State University when he received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering technology. He then began his career at Thrasher Engineering, Inc., in Clarksburg as a civil engineer, becoming a partner in 2003.

Since 2005, Riley has been a principal of Resource Engineering Group, Inc. He oversees the site development and architectural divisions of the company. He has served as project manager for the development of numerous business and industrial parks throughout the state.

Riley has participated greatly in the building projects that have taken place on campus for the last several years. He also serves on the Fairmont State University Technology Advisory Committee. In 2005, Riley was named West Virginia Executive Magazine’s “Young Gun.”

Riley officiates high school and collegiate basketball and football, and is active in many community activities, including coaching baseball and basketball at the youth sports level. He currently resides in Bridgeport with his wife, Shelley, and their three children: Chase, Alyssa and Ashlyn.
Athletic Champions to be Honored

This year, Homecoming 2008 will take time to welcome six new Hall of Fame inductees, as well as honor the 50th anniversary of the first Fairmont State athletic teams to compete at the national championships: the 1958 men’s golf and baseball teams.

The athletic department will pay tribute to these forever Falcons at the Fairmont State Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Friday, October 24, at 6 p.m.

The banquet will be preceded and followed by a social sponsored by Omni Associates–Architects, Inc. Tickets are $25, and are available by contacting the athletic department at (304) 367-4220.

Wayne Denham ’70

Denham was a four-year letter winner in basketball for Fairmont State from 1966-70. Denham scored 1,643 points and grabbed 2,035 career rebounds, a total that still ranks first in school history. His 644 rebounds in 1967-68 is still a school and conference record.

Denham was a three-time first-team All-WVIAC selection, and he helped the Falcons to a pair of WVIAC regular season titles and one conference tournament title. He helped Fairmont State to the national tournament twice during his career, including a run to the finals in the 1967-68 season.

Matt Fortier ’72

Fortier was a standout for Fairmont State in football and wrestling. On the mat, he was a three-time WVIAC champion at heavyweight from 1968-70. On the gridiron, Fortier was a four-year letterman and a two-time first-team All-WVIAC selection. He was the starting defensive tackle on Fairmont State’s national championship team in 1967, and he was named WVIAC co-defensive player of the year in 1969.

Fortier received the Jasper H. Colebank award in 1970 and was drafted in the 10th round by the New York Giants. He also lettered in track and helped the Falcons to their only conference championship in 1968.

Jack McIntyre ’57

McIntyre came to Fairmont State after a stellar high school career at Farmington and lettered in basketball from 1953-57. He scored 1,798 points during his career, averaging 23 points per game and left Fairmont State as the school’s second leading scorer.

He was named to the WVIAC All-Tournament Team as a freshman after scoring 39 points against Morris Harvey. He also lettered in baseball and was an all-conference pitcher for the Falcons.

“It is kind of neat to think that we were trailblazers. It did show us that we could compete against anybody, although I think we thought that way anyway. I think it helped to set a standard and expectation for athletic programs.”

—Mike Arcure

Hall of Fame Chairman

Member of the 1958 Baseball Team
Roy Michael ’70
Michael played quarterback for Fairmont State and became the first person in school history to pass for over 2,000 yards in his career. In four seasons with the Falcons, he threw for 2,572 yards and averaged nearly 14 yards per completion. He led Fairmont State in total offense as a junior and senior.

Michael helped lead the Falcons to two WVIAC titles, and to the national championship in 1967. After leaving Fairmont State, he continued to have an impact on athletics locally, becoming a successful coach at Mannington and North Marion high schools.

Tim Murphy ’85
Murphy, the current men’s basketball head coach, was a standout for the Falcons from 1982-85. He was a two-time first-team All-WVIAC selection and scored 1,908 points during his career at Fairmont State, a total that still ranks ninth in school history. As a senior, he averaged 22 points and nine rebounds per game, and was named the conference’s “Player of the Year.”

He also earned All-American honors that season and helped Fairmont State to the conference tournament title.

Luc Tousignant ’82
Tousignant lettered in football for Fairmont State from 1978-81 and re-wrote the Fairmont State record book. His 4,737 yards passing shattered the school record, one that he would hold for nearly 16 years and that still ranks third in the school annals.

He was a two-time All-WVIAC second-team pick, and was a first-team selection as a senior in 1981. In that season, Tousignant was also the conference’s “Player of the Year” and was a second-team All-America honoree. He still ranks among the school leaders in season and career passing yards and total offense, and career touchdowns.

“Fairmont State has a long tradition of competing on a national level that can be traced directly to these two great teams. All of our great teams that have competed in NAIA and NCAA championships since then should pay tribute to those that helped pave the way.”

—Rusty Elliott
Athletic Director

Know a nominee?
Visit fightingfalcons.com and go to the Fairmont State Athletic Association page to nominate a former Falcon standout for the Hall of Fame, or call (304) 367-4264 to request a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2008.
Falcons Are Forever

In the spirit of Homecoming, maroon & white would like to pay tribute to three Falcons who passed away this year and left a legacy at Fairmont State. Their memories live on in the lives they touched.

Dr. J. Woodrow Sayre ’38 1913–2008
Dr. J. Woodrow Sayre was born and raised in Clarksburg. After graduating from Fairmont State Teachers College, he went on to receive a master’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a PhD at Syracuse University.

Spanning the eras of the telegraph and the internet, Woodrow contributed professionally to education and society for more than six decades. As 1865 Heritage Society members, Woodrow and his wife, Selma, ensured that they would make an impact on future generations with their legacy gift. In 2006, Woodrow was presented the Fairmont State University President’s Award of Lifetime Achievement.

If you would like to join the Sayres and countless others in leaving a legacy through your will or estate plan, please contact K. Jean Ahwesh, executive director, Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., at (304) 367-4164.

Datha Adeline Williams Smith
1913–2008
Datha Smith was a 1930 graduate of East Fairmont High School. In 2003, Smith and her late husband, Gene, established the Datha and Gene Smith Endowed Scholarship at the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., with the primary intention of assisting students from Marion County who exhibit the greatest financial need.

As of December 2007, the $200,000 fund is now fully endowed. Each year, this scholarship will provide at least one Fairmont State student with a $2,000 scholarship to defray their educational expenses for the year.

In April 2005, the Smiths and their charitable foundation, the Datha Gene Foundation, received the Soaring Award for Scholarship at the Fairmont State Academic Awards Celebration, in part because of this magnanimous philanthropic undertaking.

Before retiring to Florida, Datha and Gene Smith were key members of the Marion County community.

Contributions in memory of Datha and Gene Smith can be made through the Fairmont State Foundation. All gifts are tax deductible.

Rev. Jack Squires graduated from East Fairmont High School in 1941 and continued his education at Fairmont State College. His attendance at Fairmont State was interrupted by World War II, when Jack spent approximately three years in the Army, with two years spent overseas in the Pacific.

While at Fairmont State, he was elected president of the student body, 1947-1948. Upon graduation from Fairmont State, he attended Duke Divinity School and received a master’s of divinity degree. He served St. Peter’s Methodist Church from 1951 to 1954 in St. Albans. He was endorsed by the Methodist Church to serve as a chaplain in the United States Air Force.

Since 1991, he served as the Fairmont State football chaplain. Among his numerous decorations are five Air Force Commendation Medals.

If you would like to pay tribute to Rev. Donal M. “Jack” Squires through a tax-deductible gift to Fairmont State Athletics, please contact K. Jean Ahwesh, executive director, Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., at (304) 367-4164.
Alumni Notes

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

Career

Curtis Flemming ’90 is host of the nationally broadcast “Fly Rod Chronicles.” To find show times in your area, visit www.flyrodchronicles.tv.

Maj. Gregory A. Manns ’94 is currently serving in Iraq and has recently been promoted to battalion executive officer of the 101st Airborne Division’s Second Brigade. Manns is serving with two other FSU grads, who all met in the ROTC program.

David Olson ’98 joined the U.S. State Department in December 2007, working at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad as the public affairs officer for the Iraq Transition Assistance Office. Prior to 2007, Olson had been deployed to Iraq at least three times to work with government contracting, and he recently shared his experiences with FSU students on April 12.

1961 to 2004 held an alumni reunion in early June. Over 100 chapter members attended this fun-filled weekend, including a Pirates game, BBQ cookout and live music. For information about upcoming events, please visit www.sigmapireunion.classquest.com or contact Kevin Moats at kevinmoats@hotmail.com.

Falcons when the team performed at the WVU Coliseum in April.

Marriages/Anniversaries

Charles “Tom” Gillett ’63 and wife, Ann Marines ’62, celebrated their 40th anniversary in December. Tom retired from Virginia Electric & Power Company in Richmond, VA, and Ann from BASF Corporation in Williamsburg, VA. They winter in Avon Park, FL, and spend their summers between Snowshoe and their camp at Bowden.

The Fairmont State Alumni Association hosted the first-ever PNC Day at the Park in May. Over 350 alumni and friends turned out to reunite with fellow alums and show their Falcon pride.

Bernie ’61 and Donna Hoult Thompson ’59 were featured in the September 2006 edition of the AKC Gazette for their successful work in AKC tracking and hunt competitions. This August, they will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary. Both are retired West Virginia teachers.

Kevin Pearson ’07 of the Harlem Globetrotters was joined by fellow

Events

Sigma Pi Fraternity, Gamma Epsilon Chapter, members from

Correction: John and Carole Warner were listed as members of the class of ’60 in the spring edition. Instead, they are members of the class of ’66.

The Fairmont State Alumni and Student Travel Program

March 14-21, 2009—Rome, Italy

Travel to Rome with hosts Christina M. Lavorata, associate provost and J. Robert Baker, professor of English and director of the Honors Program.

This study tour of Rome will include visits to the Roman Forum, Coliseum, Vatican Museums, St. Peter’s Basilica and Vatican Necropolis.

Enjoy the ambiance of Piazza Nuvona, Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain, as well as the ruins of classical Rome.

The deadline to register is October 15, 2008. For more information, contact:

J. Robert Baker
JRobert.Baker@fairmontstate.edu or (304) 367-4260

March 14-21, 2009—Rome, Italy

Travel to Rome with hosts Christina M. Lavorata, associate provost and J. Robert Baker, professor of English and director of the Honors Program.

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JRobert.Baker@fairmontstate.edu or (304) 367-4260
The Column Society Gift of Influence

Don and Marcella Hoylman

“I have a strong belief in higher education, and I want to give other people an opportunity I did not have. I want to help young people get a quality education that will change their lives.”

—Don Hoylman

Through participation in Fairmont State’s Neighborhood Investment Program Scholarship Fund, Don and Marcella Hoylman have directly impacted more than 70 students since 2005.

When Don married Marcella Lomas in 1950, he had served his country as a Marine and then went to Ohio to find work.

“Marcella did not want to move away from West Virginia, so she got me a job,” he laughed. At that time, Marcella was employed as the chief accountant with Industrial Engineering and Construction in Fairmont.

Don worked hard and learned the business through personal study and the direction, guidance and experience of others. In less than 10 years, he purchased the business from the previous owners.

He owned and operated Industrial Resources, Inc., and West Virginia Electric, both divisions of Victory of West Virginia, and is now the owner of Donmar Enterprises, Inc.

Don is thankful for the opportunities and direction he received in his life and now is dedicated to providing opportunities for others.

“Helping students afford a college degree puts them in a position where they can earn a better-than-average living and make a good life for themselves and their families,” he said.

For their generous support of student scholarships at Fairmont State, the Hoylmans were honored this April at FSU’s Annual Academic Awards Celebration as recipients of the SOARING Award.

NIP Fast Facts
Since 2005, the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., has raised more than $260,000 in scholarship funds for low-income students through the Neighborhood Investment Program.

Donors to the NIP Scholarship Fund are eligible for a state tax credit up to 50 percent of their donation.

NIP scholarships are awarded to West Virginians who fall at or below 125 percent of the poverty rate and exhibit academic promise.
More than $149,000 has been raised for athletic scholarships and program support this year.

Championships begin with Scholarships

72% of FSU student-athletes receive financial aid.

Frequently Asked Question:
What is the Fairmont State Athletic Association Annual Giving Program?

Answer:
The FSAA Annual Giving Program raises funds through mail requests, a tuition waiver matching challenge and personal solicitations to support student-athletes and athletic programs at Fairmont State.

www.fightingfalcons.com is the official web site of Fairmont State Athletics and averages over 30,000 hits every month.

$2 MILLION

FAIRMONT STATE FOUNDATION, INC., FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR 2008-09

FSAA Tuition Waiver Matching Challenge
When you make a commitment to provide a gift of $1,000 or more designated to the Falcon Athletic Scholarship Fund, the Board of Governors has committed that 100 percent of your gift will be matched. This allows you to double your impact on our student-athletes through the scholarship fund.

Make easy monthly, quarterly or bi-annual payments through Fairmont State’s electronic fund transfer program. Contact Chris Morgan, director of Foundation operations and finances, at (304) 367-4788, for more information.

68%...Athletic graduation rate
506...Athletic donors this year
170...Students receiving athletic scholarships

All information is current as of June 30, 2008.
Are you receiving your child's mail at your home?
Please help us deliver mail to the right address. We’d like to send maroon&white and alumni event invitations directly to your graduate’s current residence. Call toll free at (866) 372-2586 to provide an address update.

Would you like to become the official corporate sponsor of Freddie the Falcon? Contact Adam Zundell at (304) 367-4264 to discuss the advertising and marketing benefits associated with a Fairmont State athletic department sponsorship.