Making a Mark...
The Life and Tales of Dr. Ruth Ann Musick
As the leaves begin to turn, the dorms become alive again, and the football pads go on, the maroon & white staff hopes that you are getting geared up for another year of Fairmont and Pierpont activities and success. We have been hard at work on this edition and we are pleased to present it to you.

Not only can you find all of your 2010 Homecoming information, including the alumni award winners and hall of fame inductees, but you will also find an essay on the Farmington and Montcoal mining disasters and an opportunity to learn about the new Pierpont President, Dr. Doreen Larson. And we certainly can’t forget to mention our cover story on Dr. Ruth Ann Musick, who ignited an enthusiasm for folklore studies and tradition in Fairmont and throughout West Virginia.

You will also see a new look to the magazine, a new focus of our content, and even new paper. maroon & white is going green by switching to a recycled paper and using a wind powered printing company. Through these initiatives, we hope to do our part to keep our community fresh for years to come.

Will you play a role too? If you would prefer to receive maroon & white electronically instead of in your mail box, please send an e-mail to maroonandwhite@fairmontstate.edu and tell us where your Fairmont or Pierpont degree has taken you.

Hope to see you at Homecoming 2010!
Interview by Sarah Hensley  Photos by Sarah Hensley and John Piscitelli

What Virginians are known for having a strong sense of place. How have you been shaped by the places you have lived?

I grew up in a city with very distinct ethnic neighborhoods. My neighborhood had a strong Italian heritage. My family was not Italian, but Mother was a professional singer and could sing beautifully in Italian and so we were considered like family. I learned at an early age to really enjoy the traditions, food and music of the cultural family to family. For example, I think these early lessons in how basic interactions are colored by family culture helped me immensely in working with people with disabilities and their capabilities. I could especially help teachers and employers understand that they had some basic biases regarding people with disabilities and their capabilities. I could explain some of the barriers that were in place preventing people with disabilities from accessing college and employment and I could help to reduce some of these barriers.

What do you see as the role of community colleges in American higher education?

Community colleges play a critical, but often overlooked role in the education of U.S. citizens by virtue of our mission of student development and student success. Our “open enrollment” philosophy allows access to higher education that is unduplicated in any other country. We, of course, know that there are many students who need coursework and support services to bridge their skills and knowledge between where they are and where they need to be in order to tackle college courses. We consider that academic and personal development as part of our charge of opening the door to a college education and the life that is possible with a college degree.

We are successful in carrying out our mission of student development because we have faculty members who are noted particularly in two areas 1) their dedication to teaching and student success as their top professional priority and 2) their grounded experience in their fields of instruction.

Community college faculty members are evaluated on the quality of what is happening in their classrooms, not on their number of professional publications, graduate students, etc. Our focus is the classroom, curriculum, and campus service. Our faculty members are often drawn from full-time jobs in their field and they are often noted leaders in their technical and professional areas. These faculty members are passionate about their subjects, are on the cutting edge of the course content and are able to connect their students to employment locally and in the region.

For certain groups in the United States, such as working adults, a community college has historically been the “college of first choice.” More recently, community colleges are noted as the preferred college for military veterans, urban students and, Latinos. We need to continue to reach out to these groups and also promote ourselves as a “preferred” college to the general population in the U.S.

We also have a historical and incredibly vital role to play in workforce and lifelong education.

Pierpont has a strong history and tradition of service and quality, but as an independent institution, it is very young. What is the next step for Pierpont?

Our Pierpont tag line is “practical, possible, Pierpont.” I would add another “P” to that phrase and it would be Pierpont’s second president, Dr. Doreen Larson, officially took office on June 30, 2010. She was hired after a national search to replace the retiring Blair Montgomery.
suggestions and I hope that I can utilize their connections with the community to help me with this work. We also want to establish and support a Pierpont alumni “community” and we are looking for people who are interested in helping us with this effort. Most importantly, we need alumni to identify themselves as Pierpont graduates and encourage others to explore attending Pierpont. Our alumni are our best advertising and solid proof of our quality education and also underscore the fact that our graduates live and work within our local communities. This is the message that needs to be repeated as often as possible to help us gain the funding and other resources that we need to continue to serve more students and maintain our standards and quality.

How can Pierpont alumni help take Pierpont to the next step? So glad you asked! I need Pierpont alumni to help me and the college to identify partners in the communities we serve. I am aware of some of the collaborative organizations in Fairmont and our close counties, but we need to reach out across our entire region. I hope that alumni will contact me with suggestions and I hope that I can utilize their connections with the community to help me with this work. We also want to establish and support a Pierpont alumni “community” and we are looking for people who are interested in helping us with this effort. Most importantly, we need alumni to identify themselves as Pierpont graduates and encourage others to explore attending Pierpont. Our alumni are our best advertising and solid proof of our quality education and also underscore the fact that our graduates live and work within our local communities. This is the message that needs to be repeated as often as possible to help us gain the funding and other resources that we need to continue to serve more students and maintain our standards and quality.

A Snapshot of Dr. Larson

Hometown: Cleveland, OH
Parents: Joseph & Doris McNally Shell
Spouse: Leonard “Len” Larson
Children: Joseph, Anthony and Timothy

- Mayfield High School, National Merit Commended Scholar
- B.S. in Special Education, Cleveland State University, Summa cum Laude
- M.A. in Education, John Carroll University
- Ph.D. in Special Education, Kent State University
- Taught high school and coached swimming
- Kent State University, faculty member
- Lakeland Community College, faculty member
- Dean of Counseling and Academic Support Services, and Asst.VP for Student Access and Success
- Holyoke Community College, VP for Student Affairs

Larson is proud to note that all three of her sons began their college careers at a community college. Her oldest son, Joseph, graduated from Lakeland Community College and is now attending Cleveland State University. Her son Anthony completed the transfer package from Lakeland and graduated from the Ohio State University. Her youngest son, Timothy, attended Holyoke Community College and will complete his associate’s degree this spring from Lakeland Community College.

In addition, her husband, Leonard, graduated from Jackson Community College in Michigan before going on to complete a bachelor’s and master’s degree in biology.

You are Pierpont and we want to hear YOUR story.

We are interested to hear from our alumni to learn more about what you are doing in your profession and community. If you have completed a course or degree from Pierpont Community & Technical College (known from 1974 to 2006 as Fairmont State Community & Technical College) we would LOVE to hear from you. You can use the response card in this publication or you can send your contact information to Sarah Hensley, Director of Public and Community Relations at Sarah.Hensley@pierpont.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.
A Look Back At
Fairmont State’s
Presidents

Since its establishment as a private normal school in 1865, Fairmont State University has had 29 chief executives leading the institution as acting or official principals and presidents. The knowledge and personality of each have molded the institution’s history and educational mission. This timeline highlights the presidents who led Fairmont State over the past 100 years.

**Charles J. C. Bennett (1897-1910)**

Dr. Bennett’s principal interest was teacher training and he converted the model normal school at the college into a practice teaching facility. During his presidency, the student yearbook, The Monarch, made its debut. Also a system of four curricula was established-normal, classical, modern language, and science. And Fairmont offered for the first time correspondence courses and extension work in several subjects. In his three years as president the school’s enrollment doubled to reach 600 students and it graduated its largest class to that date, 70 students.

**I. Woodley (1910-1915)**

President Woodley faced the problem of redefining the role of the normal school in a changing educational climate. The development of high schools meant that in the future they would replace normal schools such as Fairmont State as general preparatory schools. Woodley promoted the idea that the normal course should extend two years beyond high school and should include broad scholarship in subjects taught before high school. It should also provide instruction in teaching techniques and require students to delve into several academic subjects deeply enough to grasp the nature of true scholarship. Thus Fairmont State Normal had begun its transition toward becoming a college.

**John W. Pence (1952-1959)**

Pence served continuously at the college from 1926, most of that time as dean of men. As president he tried to strike a balance between the traditional emphasis on teacher education and the new demands for non-teaching degrees in many fields. He established the conventional ranks of instructor through professor and replaced the many small departments with five academic divisions. He endeavored to bind the college and the community more closely. Despite a serious economic crisis in the final year of his tenure, under his aegis a men’s dormitory (later Pence Hall) and the Student Center were built. President Pence died suddenly in office in 1959.

**Robert J. Dillman 1988-1996**

During the presidency of Dr. Robert J. Dillman, enrollment increased substantially at both the main campus and at the Clarksburg campus. The physical growth of the university under Dr. Dillman is evident today and includes: the construction of the new Education Building, the funding for the construction of the Pierpont Community and Technical College in Clarksburg, the building of the Robert C. Byrd Aviation Center at Clarksburg Airport, and the establishment of the first Alumni Center adjacent to the campus. Dillman’s legacy includes the establishment of the Aviation Science program, the expansion of engineering technology, and the enhancement of other academic areas such nursing.

**Wendell G. Hardway 1973-1988**

Dr. Hardway holds the distinction of being the only man to serve as president of two West Virginia colleges, Bluefield State College and Fairmont State College. During his 15-year tenure, Fairmont State saw a 54 percent increase in enrollment and a 34 percent increase in programmatic offerings. The Feaster Center, Physical Plant Building and technology wing of Wallman Hall were constructed, as well as major renovations of the Administration Building and Colebank Hall. On April 25, 1989, the Administration Building was renamed Hardway Hall in his honor.

**Janet Dudley-Eshbach 1996-2000**

Dr. Dudley-Eshbach became the first female president of Fairmont State, and was the first woman to hold that position at any public four-year institution in West Virginia’s history. She worked diligently to position Fairmont State as a leader in the emerging aerospace industry that Senator Robert C. Byrd was helping bring to North Central West Virginia. She greatly supported the efforts of the institution’s first alumni center and created renewed enthusiasm for Fairmont State athletics by providing much deserved recognition for legendary coaches Harold “Deacon” Davoll and Joe “Jo Jo” Retton by placing their names on athletic facilities in perpetuity.

**Daniel J. Bradley 2001-2008**

Dr. Daniel J. Bradley took the reins of the institution at a time of significant change and opportunity for growth. During his tenure, more than $100 million in student-oriented projects were completed, including a new student center, parking garage, residence hall and academic building. Access to the campus for those with disabilities was also greatly improved. Dr. Bradley initiated the university’s first ever capital campaign, grew graduate programs, expanded the use of technology in classrooms, and launched initiatives for outcomes-based assessment of student learning.

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**Joseph Rosier (1915-1945)**

To date, no chief administrator has matched his longevity in office. In his three decades as president, Rosier guided the evolution of the college from a normal school to a teachers college and saw it through two world wars. Under Rosier’s guidance the college moved to its present Locust Avenue campus and grew in enrollment, became more financially secure, offered a more varied curriculum, and (after 1925) awarded the baccalaureate degree.

**Robert J. Dillman 1988-1996**

During Dr. Feaster’s presidency, change, growth, and expansion were the watchwords. The curriculum was revised and expanded. New and sometimes experimental programs were begun. New buildings were added: North Hall, Wallman Hall, Hunt-Haught Hall, and the dining hall. The library was enlarged and the administration building was renovated. The faculty tripled in size and the student body grew from 1,300 in 1960 to 3,800 in 1972, the year before his retirement. While the college grew and changed, Dr. Feaster maintained close relations with the community and was active in many local endeavors.

**Eston K. Feaster (1960-1970)**

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Dear Friends:

In so many ways, the strength and well-being of an institution like Fairmont State University rests upon the support and involvement of alumni. My experience over the past twelve months and academic year tells me FSU has come so far and will continue to move forward because of your support.

Over the past year, I have come to appreciate the participation of alumni in campus events. I have found it gratifying to see so many of you at athletic events, fine and performing arts activities, and in student mentoring functions. But, I have also been impressed to see the commitment and leadership shown by alumni in other venues. For example, I am impressed by the number of FSU alumni who serve in a wide variety of local, state and federal public policy-making roles. I am also impressed by the number of FSU alumni who serve throughout a wide variety of professional fields such as nursing, education, criminal justice and business. Regardless of the role alumni perform individually or collectively, what is most important is that you and they serve as role models for the young people currently enrolled and following in your footsteps at Fairmont State University. I can’t think of a more important leadership contribution for our alumni to perform, and for that I say thank you.

Carol and I returned recently from a University-related trip to South Korea. One result of that trip is two exchange agreements with Namseoul University and Ansan College; another agreement, this with Hanyang University, one of South Korea’s premier institutions, is in development. I am looking forward to building those inter-institutional relationships so students, faculty, staff and alumni will have the opportunity to both host South Korean counterparts and to visit that beautiful country and intriguing culture. I expect we will host two groups of South Korean students on campus, one this summer and another this fall. Since space doesn’t allow me to tell all I’d like about the trip, suffice it to say that we Americans have much to learn from cultures throughout the world. And, it will be that increasingly global community in which our emerging alumni will live and lead, therefore giving them exposure to foreign cultures and environments is especially important.

Finally, let me express a word of personal thanks to all of you who participated in or sent your expressions of support for my inauguration as the thirteenth President of Fairmont State University. I am honored to serve in this role and take much confidence in knowing the dedication and loyalty for the institution that exists among FSU alumni. I appreciate your willingness to help fulfill the motto, “Fairmont Forward.”

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Krepel, Ph.D.
President

The Inauguration of Dr. Thomas L. Krepel

Hundreds of faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members celebrated the Inauguration of Fairmont State University’s 13th president, Dr. Thomas L. Krepel, on April 17, 2010. With the theme “Fairmont Forward,” a week of special events showcased community involvement, as well as the achievements of students and faculty.

The inaugural address referenced “Siddhartha” by Herman Hesse, an allegorical tale of a boy who undertakes a spiritual journey. “It is my hope that through our collective efforts we will share with our students the lesson of the river — that our efforts lead to understanding, to comprehension and to enlightenment,” said Dr. Krepel.
At approximately 5:30 a.m. on November 20, 1968, a large explosion rocked the Consol No. 9 coal mine north of Farmington and Manning, West Virginia. At the time, 99 miners were inside. Over the course of the next few hours, 21 miners were able to escape the mine, but 78 were still trapped. All who were unable to escape perished; the bodies of 19 of the dead were never recovered.

Three years ago that was all I knew about the mining disaster that took place in Farmington, West Virginia. That is not the whole story.

As a native West Virginian born to a coal miner’s daughter and reared by a father who daily donned a blue collar stained with sweat of the mines, I did not strike me as unfortu- nate that I was basically ignorant to the actual stories behind a major event that shaped this area, state and nation. I was wrong.

In the spring of 2008 I was invited to join the creative team for Fairmont State University’s School of Fine Arts ethnographic theatre project, “Remembering No. 9”. The project’s intent was to create a detailed account of the Farmington mine disaster by conducting multiple forms of research, primarily one-on-one interviews, and then presenting the research by composing an original piece of theatre.

After hearing the tales of so many people who were a part of the community of Farmington in the late 1960s, it was made very clear that the story we were setting out to tell was not to be focused on the mere factual data of the event. Dates and places aren’t the story and never will be. The people and their memories were and forever will be the story.

The pastor who ministered with presence for eight grueling days and nights.

The wife whose last memory of her husband was a laughter-filled slow dance around their living room.

The widow still wracked with grief over her hand in her husband’s career choice.

The photographer who remained removed from the horror of the situation by staying behind his camera lens.

The people and their memories were and forever will be the story.

As we sat and listened to these accounts, the stomach grew tighter and coverage went on, my eyes welled and my heart ached. As the hours of broadcast coverage went on, my stomach grew tighter and my tears welled up. No words of the people who were serving hot meals. I longed to see a genuine embrace, a forced smile, a single tear.

I suddenly realized how much the “Remembering No. 9” project had changed me. How much it had opened my eyes to the importance of every moment that every human lives. How much it had forever bonded me to the people who make up the coal camps of yesterday and today.

In one press conference it was remarked, “We haven’t invented any new ways to kill our miners.” That is exactly right. But I believe those of us involved with the “Remembering No. 9” project may have found a new way to honor them.

At approximately 3:27 p.m. on April 5, 2010, a large explosion rocked Massey Energy’s Upper Big Branch coal mine in Montcoal, West Virginia. Twenty-nine miners were killed in an explosion 1,000 feet underground. This is not the whole story.

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Longtime professor of English and folklore, Dr. Ruth Ann Musick (1897-1974), made a profound and lasting mark on our state, our campus and our future through her love of and dedication to the discovery and recording of West Virginia folklore. Whether you know Dr. Musick for her name on the campus library, recall being a student in one of her classes, or maybe just reading from one of her collections, such as The Telltale Lilac Bush, Dr. Musick left behind a valuable and precious legacy as she ignited an enthusiasm for heritage and folklore tradition that continues in many West Virginians today.

Dr. Musick was born in 1897 in Kirksville, Missouri. Raised on a five-acre farm on the edge of town in a family that appreciated the fine arts, she began writing stories at an early age. Her brother, Archie, would later become the illustrator for her folklore collections. Ruth Ann also developed a sensitive nature and, at the age of eight, decided to become a vegetarian after witnessing the butchering of livestock.

She attended Kirksville State Teacher's College and received her Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1919. In 1928, she received a Master of Science degree in mathematics, and in 1943, a Doctorate of Philosophy in English with an emphasis in creative writing, both from the State University of Iowa.

Although not a native West Virginian, Dr. Musick set out on a mission to collect and preserve the folklore of the state when she came as a professor to Fairmont State in 1946. In fact, she dedicated her career and her life to this mission. She quickly became endeared to West Virginians because of her love for her adopted home state, as evidenced even in her eloquent description of West Virginia's landscape in Green Hills of Magic, West Virginia Folktales From Europe.

Near the end of her life, Dr. Musick again expressed her love—and concern—for these green hills in her preface to Coffin Hollow. She used this forum to speak out against the strip mining that was “skinning the state alive.” She felt that the destruction of strip mining threatened to make West Virginia “an ordinary state—well, worse than ordinary—a completely soulless, treeless, creatureless land, unless it can be saved.” She went on to say, “For years now I’ve been trying to save just the stories and general lore of West Virginia. To me, these tales are almost as fascinating and individual as the state itself.” From 1946 until her death in 1974, Dr. Musick dedicated her talents and energies to preserving the unique heritage and tradition of West Virginia.

In 1948, Dr. Musick revived the West Virginia Folklore Society, along with Dr. Patrick Gainer and Dr. Walter Barnes, who had been one of the original founders when it was active from 1915 to 1917. Dr. Barnes encouraged the establishment of West Virginia Folklore, a quarterly journal of the West Virginia Folklore Society, and named Dr. Musick as the editor and archivist of the journal. Virtually single-handedly, she wrote, edited, reproduced and mailed this journal four times a year to universities and public libraries. It served as a way to collect, preserve and promote the folklore and heritage of West Virginia.

Dr. Musick served as the president of the Marion County Poetry Society and was active in the West Virginia Poetry Society. She was also president of the Marion County Little Theatre, acting in various roles throughout her life. Additionally, she wrote weekly columns for the Times West Virginian and other newspapers in the state. She took many other opportunities to be an ambassador for folklore and for West Virginia.

There they were—hills upon hills—billowing up like waves from a sea of moss-green velvet. Something had happened. We were in another world—a world of magic! Someone said it was West Virginia. All I knew was I was under a complete spell. I had never seen anything like the grandeur of these hills. There was something mystical about it all—something supernatural.

- Ruth Ann Musick
A Mark On Our Campus

Even though Dr. Musick came to Fairmont State in 1946 to teach mathematics, she carefully selected this area of Appalachia as she realized that northern West Virginia was virtually untouched by folklore scholarship. Once on campus, she gradually began to pick up classes in the English department. In 1948, she started a folk literature class, still popular among students today.

As a professor at Fairmont State, Dr. Musick inspired her students beyond the realms of traditional education. In addition to studying literature, her students were hands-on collectors of West Virginia’s oral tradition. In the preface to Coffin Hollow, Dr. Musick credits her students: “Some ninety percent or more of all my ghost tales were brought in by my students, who got them from their parents, grandparents, or older neighbors.” Dr. Musick not only inspired her students; she provided them with opportunities to use their resources and talents in ways that significantly contributed to the preservation of West Virginia’s folklore.

A beloved and dedicated professor, Dr. Musick transmitted her love for literature, creative writing, drama and folklore to her students. She was a dynamic teacher who would act out passages from Shakespeare or jump on a desk or hide behind a door to explain a scene to her class. She taught narrative and descriptive writing, in which she read her own original stories and poems as examples. Even after retirement, she taught part-time to keep her connection to the students.

During her time at Fairmont State, Dr. Musick made her home in the Colonial Apartments on the west side of campus. A loyal member of the Marion County Humane Society, she shared her home with stray pets—from the rooster that crowed on the balcony of her second-floor apartment to Molly, a beloved dog that lived with Dr. Musick during her later years in a bottom-floor apartment. She took Molly in after finding her half-dead, her stomach slit from side to side. She carried the dog, wrapped in her trench coat, to Fairmont General Hospital for treatment.

Due to Dr. Musick’s dedication to her students throughout the years, her many accomplishments in preserving West Virginia folklore, and the legacy her life inspired, the campus library was named in her memory in 1980. Her legacy, however, continues on this campus in more ways than her name on a building.

A Mark on the Future

Fairmont State’s Dr. Judy Prozillo Byers had the opportunity to both study under and work with Dr. Musick. As a child, Dr. Byers recalls Dr. Musick coming to her parents’ home to enjoy the long Sunday dinners with her family, quietly setting her tape recorder on a side table to collect the proverbs and stories typical to an Italian-American household. In this way, Dr. Musick collected hundreds of tales from informant families, many of which are included in the four collections she published, three of which continue in print today.

When Judy came to Fairmont State as a student, she took Dr. Musick’s folk literature class, which inspired her to further pursue this interest. As a mentor, Dr. Musick encouraged Judy to sign up for all the folklore taught by Dr. Patrick Gainer at West Virginia University, as she pursued her graduate degrees. Dr. Byers also furthered her studies in folklore at Indiana University’s International Folklore Institute.

When Dr. Musick was diagnosed with terminal spinal cancer in 1973, she named Dr. Byers the executor of her unpublished folklore estate and charged her to continue to preserve and make available this important part of West Virginia’s culture and tradition.

Mentored by Dr. Musick, Dr. Byers has passionately and enthusiastically worked toward the same mission. In 1998, she founded the West Virginia Folklore Center through the guidance of Dr. Fred Fidura, Fairmont State’s provost at the time, and was aided by the patronage of Dr. B. B. Maurer, who is considered the “Father of Cultural Studies in West Virginia.” As director of the Folklore Center, Dr. Byers revived West Virginia Folklore under a different format entitled Traditions: A Journal of West Virginia Folk Culture and Educational Awareness, which she co-edits with Noel W. Tenney, cultural specialist. Mr. Tenney’s work with material culture, including folk arts and museum studies, has been integral to the Center’s mission since its inception.

Currently there are two academic programs available through the Folklife Center: a minor in Folklore Studies, an interdisciplinary program within the University that can be attached to most liberal arts majors, and an Associate of Arts degree offered through Pierpont Community & Technical College with a concentration in museum studies or a museum studies certificate.

Dr. Musick’s meaningful lifework and vision inspired the preservation and perpetuation of West Virginia’s rich culture. As a professor, Dr. Musick impacted the lives of thousands of Fairmont State students. As an author and collector of folklore, she gave West Virginians keepsakes of tradition—a way to remember this part of their heritage. Today, her work continues through the academic studies, programming, and publications of the Folklife Center. Were it not for her ambition to collect and publish the oral tradition of West Virginia, much of it would have been lost to future generations.

The Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center

As a result of the generous leadership gift from Fairmont State alumni Frank ‘61 and Jane ‘60 Gabor, ground was broken in May 2008 for an adaptive reuse project to provide a permanent home for the Folklife Center. The Folklife Center is dedicated to the preservation of West Virginia’s rich cultural heritage and is a joint initiative of Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College.

The Folklife Center, a vision of Dr. Judy P. Byers, was established in 1998 and continues to grow as a result of her dedication and foresight.
In 2009, the domino effect of in-game mistakes combined with top-notch opponents led to losses which affected the team’s overall confidence for the next game. What had seemed to be a promising season for the Falcons was almost over before ever getting started. Despite that letdown, head coach Mike Lopez is more determined than ever to lead the Falcons back to glory. While lessons were certainly learned in the 2009 season, Lopez is confident in his approach and philosophy. “Just because we were losing doesn’t mean we’re lost,” Lopez says emphatically. “When you win, you feel like you have things figured out. When you lose, you evaluate things from A-to-Z, and we’ve done that and we know where we are and how to get to where we want to be.”

One of the biggest changes from last season is the addition of Bryan Fisher to the coaching staff as the offensive coordinator. Fisher has Division I experience and has spent the last seven seasons as a successful head coach at Robert C. Byrd High School. “I’ve known Coach Fisher for a long time, I know his demeanor and personality – and it’s what we needed,” Lopez says. “I think his addition changes our team in terms of moving the ball, scoring points and overall confidence.”

To help reignite the program, the Falcons were invited down to Florida State to observe Bryan Fisher’s brother, Jimbo Fisher’s Seminoles and learn from their offensive and defensive strategies. “We are so thankful to [Florida State head coach] Jimbo Fisher and his staff for allowing us to come and study their program. Obviously we learned a great deal during our stay as our own offense, under the guidance of Bryan Fisher, resembles Florida State’s, but we also learned a lot defensively and in the kicking game. We are grateful for the opportunity Coach Fisher gave us and we look forward to revisiting him in the future.”

On the offensive side, Senior Vick Bradford has the most experience of any of the signal callers returning, but is still recovering from an injury which may open a door for freshman Logan Moore, a graduate of Fairmont Senior High. “We’re very proud that Logan chose to join us here at Fairmont State. He is a hard worker with a great attitude. He has a true desire to maximize his talent as a football player, and we look forward to helping him accomplish this,” Shannon Kelley, Quarterback Coach, commented.

The Falcon defense, under the direction of Mike Lopez, are big, physical and deep up front, and have game-changing talent in the secondary in 2010. In between, FSU will need to develop its linebacking corps to be the top unit it expects to be.

On special teams, the Falcons boast senior return man Zack Page, who has a chance at several NCAA Division II records in terms of kick returns and yardage. Page, a two-time second team All-WVIAC specialist, had over 1,000 kick return yards and took two kicks back for a touchdown. He gives the Falcon offense good field position nearly every time he gets an opportunity. Page, along with Scott Victorio, are also viable options as a punt returner.

Once again, the Falcons will face one of the toughest schedules in the country. Last season, FSU’s strength of schedule was ranked 20th in the country. Many of those teams, including two teams that made the NCAA playoffs, dot the 2010 schedule.

For the complete Falcon Football preview and to follow the team, visit www.fightingfalcons.com.

### Coaching Staff

- **Mike Lopez**
  - Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator

- **Gary Lanham**
  - Linebackers/Recruiting Coordinator

- **Ryan Dumont**
  - Running Backs/Video Coordinator

- **Shannon Kelley**
  - Special Teams/Academic Coordinator

- **Bryan Fisher**
  - Offensive Coordinator/Defensive Line

- **J.L. Abbott**
  - Offensive Line Coach

- **Shahram Shafii**
  - Co-Defensive Coordinator

- **J.J. Iaquinta**
  - Special Teams (Kickers/ Punters)

- **Richard Laquinta**
  - Special Teams (Kickoffs)

- **Ryan Dumont**
  - Special Teams (Punters)

- **Ryan Dumont**
  - Special Teams (Kickoffs)

- **Shahram Shafii**
  - Co-Defensive Coordinator

- **Mike Mainella**
  - Secondary

- **Mike Mainella**
  - Secondary

### 2010 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent/Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>at Clarion</td>
<td>Clarion, PA</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Notre Dame College</td>
<td>Fairmont, WV</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>at Shepherd*</td>
<td>Shepherdstown, WV</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>at Glenville State*</td>
<td>Glenville, WV</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>West Liberty*</td>
<td>Fairmont, WV</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>at Charleston*</td>
<td>Charleston, WV</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>at UNC Pembroke</td>
<td>Pembroke, NC</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>WV Wesleyan*</td>
<td>Fairmont, WV</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Seton Hill*</td>
<td>Fairmont, WV</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>at Concord*</td>
<td>Princeton, WV</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>WV State*</td>
<td>Fairmont, WV</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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* WVIAC Conference games
**Homecoming Schedule October 25-30, 2010**

**Friday, October 29**
- **Emeritus Luncheon Class of 1960**
  - Falcon Center, 3rd Floor, Conference Rooms
  - 11 a.m.
  - Tickets:
    - Advance—$15
    - Door—$20
- Honor the golden anniversary of our 1960 graduates with their induction into the Emeritus Club. All attendees of the Class of 1960 will share a few fond memories of their time at the “College on the Hill.”

**Saturday, October 30**
- **Alumni Awards Luncheon**
  - Colebank Gym
  - 12 p.m.
  - Tickets:
    - Advance—$15
    - Door—$20
- Join us for our annual event honoring the six alumni award winners of 2010. See page 22 for more information.

**Hotel Accommodations**

Please reserve your rooms early as space is limited and the North Central West Virginia 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

- **Fairfield Inn & Suites**
  - 27 Southland Drive Fairmont, WV 26554
  - Reservations: (304) 367-9150

- **Reservations:**
  - (304) 363-0100
  - (304) 367-1370
  - (304) 366-5500

**Homecoming Schedule October 25-30, 2010**

**Falcon’s Nest**
- 3 p.m.
- **Homecoming Parade**
  - Downtown Fairmont
  - 6 p.m.

**Pep Rally**
- Duvall-Rosier Field
- Falcon’s Nest (near concession stands)
- 7 p.m.

**Monday, October 25**
- **FSU Women’s Volleyball vs Seton Hill & Junk to Funk Fashion Show**
  - Feaster Center
  - Free Admission
  - 7 p.m.
  - Call Sue Conrad at 304-367-4343 if interested in competing in the Junk to Funk Fashion Show.

**Tuesday, October 26**
- **Cutting Gala**
  - Falcon Center, Gym 1
  - 6:30 p.m.
  - Tickets: $25
  - Free Admission
  - Children 14 and under—$4
  - Adults—$8

**Thursday, October 28**
- **FSU Women’s Volleyball vs Seton Hill**
  - Duvall-Rosier Field
  - 3 p.m.
  - **Post-game Reception**
    - Erickson Alumni Center
    - Immediately following the game.
    - Tickets: $5.00 per person
    - Children 14 and under—$4
    - Adults—$8
    - Reserved seatbacks—$12

**Friday, October 29**
- **Falcon Center, 3rd Floor, Conference Rooms**
  - 11 a.m.
  - **Tickets:**
    - Advance—$15
    - Door—$20

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    - Advance—$15
    - Door—$20
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**Folk Life Forward: A Ribbon-Cutting Gala**
- Folklife Center, Squibb-Wilson Blvd.
- October 28, 2010
- **Tickets:**
  - Advance—$15
  - Door—$20
- Join us as we celebrate the completion of the first floor of the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center. As part of our celebration, the B.B. Maurer Folklife Scholar Award and the Traditions Salute Award will both be presented. Wassail, savories and sweets will be served and tours will be available.

**Quilt Reading**
- Falcon Center, Squibb-Wilson Blvd.
- October 29
- **Tickets:**
  - Advance—$15
  - Door—$20
- Join us for the rare opportunity to listen to Fairmont State alumni on making savvy financial decisions early in life.

**Alumni Welcome Center**
- Erickson Alumni Center
- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Alumni Center, located at 1300 Locust Avenue, will be open October 25-30, 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.

**Folk Life Forward: A Ribbon-Cutting Gala**
- Folklife Center, Squibb-Wilson Blvd.
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**Silent Auction and Open House**
- Falcon Center, Squibb-Wilson Blvd.
- October 29
- **Tickets:**
  - Advance—$15
  - Door—$20
- Go ahead and bring your quilts to the Silent Auction. Work with our silent auction coordinator and plan a few minutes in your schedule to stop by and share in the beauty of this time honored tradition.

**Call Sue Conrad at 304-367-4343 if interested in competing in the Junk to Funk Fashion Show.**

Don’t forget to bring your quilt and share in the beauty of this time honored tradition.
Outstanding Young Alumnus – Scott Rosencrance ’92

What would you consider to be the defining moment in your career thus far?
Every day I wake up and I am grateful that I have the opportunity to lead the North American R&D organization for a large international specialty chemical company. At this moment each day is the most defining day of my career. I look forward to tomorrow and the challenges of the new day.

Where was your favorite place on campus as a student?
I am not sure but my favorite off-campus place was lunch at Yann’s Hot Dogs!

What is one thing you would like to do before you die?
See Fairmont State University increase both the faculty and number of graduates in science and math, including chemistry, and in doing so be recognized as a premier institution for both undergraduate and graduate training in West Virginia and beyond.

Outstanding Alumna – Deborah S. Phelps ’73

What is one thing you would like to do before you die?
Either come out of the tunnel at M&T Bank Stadium dressed as Mama Raven or dance on the dugout at Camden Yards as the Mama Oriole.

What is your favorite Homecoming memory?
As for my homecoming memories it was my many football memories. I love the sport and the coaching staff was phenomenal, Coach Duvall and Coach Bundy along with the other coaches were quite a team as they led the Falcons to many victories. Every game during my time at Fairmont State was a day filled with memories of sorority, friends and family, as they tend to visit more during football season.

Outstanding Young Alumna: Amanda Beafore ’02

Where was your favorite place on campus as a student?
Sitting in front of the Education building in between classes...

What would you consider to be the defining moment in your career thus far?
Thus far... Would have to be my graduation from Anesthesia School at Mountain State University.

What is your favorite Homecoming memory?
Hands down, that parade of course!!!

What is one thing you would like to do before you die?
Umm, interesting, I’ve never really thought of this... Yes, I have... get married & have children, may sound crazy, but my career has always gone better [than my love life]!!!

Alumna of Achievement – Marilyn J. Fore ’71

What would you consider to be the defining moment in your career thus far?
This award of Alumna of the Year!

What is one thing you would like to do before you die?
No one thing but all things to be a better Christian.

What is your favorite Homecoming memory?
Preparing float after float after float!

Where was your favorite place on campus as a student?
It was called the “Nickel” back in those days. Student Center where I hung out with my friends who accepted me as I was and helped me grow to what I am today.

Outstanding Alumnus – Joseph “Bud” Ford III ’73

What would you consider to be the defining moment in your career thus far?
Having my daughter graduate and become a West Virginia licensed funeral director and follow in her father's footsteps.

Where was your favorite place on campus as a student?
The old student lounge in the Nickel.

What is one thing you would like to do before you die?
To live to see my grandchildren graduate from college, hopefully Fairmont State!

What is your favorite Homecoming memory?
My future wife cheering from the sidelines as a Fairmont State cheerleader.

Alumnus of Achievement – Tom Jones ’69

What would you consider to be the defining moment in your career thus far?
There have been many defining moments, but the one that stands out in my mind relative to my career in higher education as a teacher and administrator would be my 15 years at West Virginia Tech (now West Virginia University Institute of Technology). I joined the faculty at Tech in 1973 as an assistant professor, and over the next 15 years I had the opportunity to grow professionally as a teacher along with the opportunity to enter higher education administration, serving as a department chair, dean and vice president.

What is your favorite Homecoming memory?
The greatest memory was the 1967 Homecoming football game. Fairmont State was undefeated and nationally ranked. There was tremendous school spirit! The team went on to win the NAIA National Championship, which was a great accomplishment under the leadership of Coach Duvall. In the same year, the men’s basketball team finished second in the nation under the direction of Coach Retton. It was a wonderful year for Fairmont State!
The Fairmont State University Athletic Association (FSAA) has announced this year’s Hall of Fame inductees. They include, Teresa (Haggerty) Boggs, Jason Gallaher, Chris Humphries, Ed Lemon, Dave Ritchie and Tom Schweitzer. The FSAA will continue its recent tradition of celebrating notable Fighting Falcon athletic teams. This year, the group will recognize the 1957 football team that went 7-0 and captured the WVIAC championship and the 1975 conference championship swim team.

The Hall of Fame inductees will be enshrined on Friday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Falcon Center. The banquet will be preceded by light hors d’oeuvres starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $25, and are available by contacting the athletic department at (304) 367-4220 or visiting www.fairmontstate.edu/homecoming.

**Chris Humphries ’82 – Football**

**What is your favorite Homecoming memory?**

Playing in front of a large crowd and supporting fans.

**Where was your favorite place on campus as a student?**

The Feaster Center!

**How did Fairmont State athletics impact your time as a student?**

That's where I learned the art of time management and structure.

**Teresa Haggerty Boggs ’94 – Basketball, Volleyball**

**How did Fairmont State athletics impact your time as a student?**

Being a student-athlete made me prioritize my time better to get my school work completed without MUCH procrastination. Being a part of both the basketball and volleyball teams allowed me to foster many friendships that have lasted way beyond my time as a student and created a lifetime of memories.

**Where was your favorite place on campus as a student?**

The Feaster Center, of course!

**Ed Lemon ’73 – Basketball**

**What is your favorite Homecoming memory?**

Homecoming was significant for me because I was student body vice president, so I was responsible for Homecoming, in particular the entertainment. My junior year we had The Commodores featuring Lionel Richie for the dance.

**How did Fairmont State athletics impact your time as a student?**

Coming to Fairmont State and playing sports really helped develop my confidence. I was able to be involved in student government, be captain of the basketball team for two years and take leadership roles on campus that allowed me to be selected to represent West Virginia on a trip to Africa. That's helped me in my entire life – in military becoming an officer, being a manager at Xerox, and now involved with the community at the level I am now.

**Jason Gallaher ’96 – Swimming**

**What is your favorite Homecoming memory?**

Having the opportunity to meet and talk to some swimming alumni while watching the Homecoming football game. To that point I had only heard of some of them, or read some of their names in the record books, so meeting them in person and sharing stories was a great experience. It was also fun swimming with some of those same alumni during the alumni swim meet.

**Where was your favorite place on campus as a student?**

Actually, it was a class: Machine Shop with Loy Leonard. We learned how to run milling machines. I also liked mechanical drawing and machine design.

**How did Fairmont State athletics impact your time as a student?**

Baseball didn’t really bother with my classes too much. We knew when we would be going to games and leaving early or coming back late so we just had to plan for our studying. You just had to balance it out.

**Dave Ritchie ’87 – Football Coach**

**What would you consider to be the defining moment in your career thus far?**

I was very proud to be drafted five times by Major League Baseball. But one moment I remember in particular was my last game at Fairmont. We were playing Glenville and were ahead by a run in the last inning. With the bases loaded, there were two outs and the count was full. The catcher called for a drop ball, but I shook it off, and threw a low inside fastball and the guy swung and missed.

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**Tom Schweitzer ’87 – Baseball**

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Football
Homecoming could not be complete without an afternoon at Duvall-Rosier stadium to cheer on the Fairmont State Falcons. Did you share your first kiss on the bleachers, catch the eye of your future spouse across the stands, or make a play on the field that you relive many years later? No matter what your moment was, we’re sure it centered around the pigskin.

Falcon Attire
Do you remember first wearing your freshman beanie? How about your fraternity or sorority letters? Or your letterman jacket? Homecoming is a great time to take your Falcon clothing out of the attic and wear it once more. Show the Falcons of today what Fairmont State and Pierpont looked like when you were a student here.

Acetaminophen
After a long weekend of sharing memories with old friends and making new ones, your head may be throbbing and your legs may be wobbling. Don’t forget to pack your pain relievers to help lessen the realization that you may not be as young as you used to be.

Pictures and Memories
The alumni center continues to gather yearbooks from every class. If you haven’t taken a look at The Mound since you were a student, stop by the Erickson Alumni Center at 1300 Locust Ave, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. We bet there are a ton of memories you have forgotten and we can’t wait to help you uncover them.

Friends
What would your college experience have been like had it not been for your friends? Many of you fell in love “on the hill” while others met friends they still keep in touch with 50 years later. Homecoming is about gathering together with your favorite friends and celebrating what it means to be a Falcon.

F’s and P’s needed for an Unforgettable Homecoming

Fairmont Foods
From pepperoni rolls, to pasta, to hotdogs, to pizza, Homecoming cannot be complete without a tasting of some of your favorite Fairmont foods. You may even want to plan a day to cruise the town and stop off at your favorite eateries for a taste of home.

Pride and Passion
Do you remember cheering on the Falcons at a sporting event, buying clothing for the whole family at Christmas, or putting an alumni license plate on your car? The spirit of Fairmont State and Pierpont alumni is strong and that spirit is alive in our past, present and future students.
The Common Book Project

The Common Book Project selects a book each academic year that can be incorporated into as many alumni gatherings as possible to help unify the experiences of students, staff and alumni.

Fairmont State and Pierpont seek to deepen the intellectual lives of students, staff and alumni by enriching and strengthening their intellectual life, bolstering the bonds that unite us as a community, promoting on-going discussion and learning as the basis of good citizenship, and generating the excitement that comes from a shared intellectual project.

The Book:

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

• Traces the life of a young black woman who died of cervical cancer in 1951 at Johns Hopkins Hospital
• Tells the story of how cells taken from her as tissue samples have proven immortal. These cells, known to researchers as HeLa, have been used in research for almost 60 years
• Recounts the history of Lacks’s husband and children
• Raises questions about race, poverty, family, the business of science and medicine, health care and bioethics

Celebration of Ideas Lecturer:

Rebecca Skloot
April 18, 2011 Colebank Gym

• Teacher of creative nonfiction at the University of Memphis
• Correspondent for NPR’s Radio Lab and PBS’s Nova ScienceNOW
• Writer published in The New York Times Magazine; O, The Oprah Magazine; Discover; Columbia Journalism Review; and elsewhere

For more information please visit www.fairmontstate.edu or www.pierpont.edu

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Are you receiving your graduate’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.