



Fairmont State Foundation  
1300 Locust Avenue  
Fairmont, WV 26554

(304) 534-8786  
fsf@fsufoundation.org  
www.FSUFoundation.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID #275  
CLARKSBURG, WV  
26301



A LETTER FROM THE FAIRMONT STATE FOUNDATION

SPRING 2017

## Schoolnic Gift Creates \$2.55 Million Additional Scholarship Funds for FSU Students

A \$2.55 million gift, the largest in Fairmont State University history, will support scholarships for FSU students through the Elva V. Schoolnic Trust, according to Gary K. Bennett, Trustee.

“Fairmont State University continues to meet students’ need for financial aid and to provide a unique learning environment close to home in North Central West Virginia,” said FSU President Maria Rose. “Gifts like this one truly make a difference in the lives of our students and help foster student success. We are grateful to the Schoolnic family for their investment in our students and the future of our great state.”

The gift will create additional scholarships for students in the FSU School of Business and general scholarships available to all FSU students.

Elva V. Schoolnic passed away on Nov. 11, 2008. The daughter of the late George T. and Bertha Kennedy Snyder, she was born on April 17, 1912. She was a graduate of Blacksville High School and West Virginia Business College. During her career, she worked as the office manager for Household Finance in Fairmont and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Fairmont.

“Louis and Elva Schoolnic became my friends in 1971 while I was still a student at Fairmont State” said Gary K. Bennett, Past Chair of the Fairmont State Foundation Board of Directors. “They both knew the importance of education and this planned gift is their way of supporting students into the future. It is my pleasure to present this transformational gift to the Foundation on behalf of the Schoolnic family.”

Elva’s husband, Louis Schoolnic, was a prominent Fairmont attorney. A 1929 graduate of Fairmont State Normal School (now FSU), he was a member of Tau Beta Iota fraternity. Louis Schoolnic also was a charter member and board member of the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc. After his death in 1987, the Louis Schoolnic Scholarship Fund was established at FSU to support students in



the School of Business by Gary K. & Barbara D. Bennett, and this gift will be an addition to that endowment.

Louis Schoolnic was a mentor to Dr. Gregory T. Hinton, now a Senior Professor of Business Law at FSU.

“In 1981, Mr. Schoolnic gave me the ‘passport’ to people who could and would help me with my legal practice when the need of their services arose. What he gave me was more valuable than money, and there was no other single person, lawyer or otherwise, who could have given me such valuable assets,” Hinton said. “He always took time from his busy schedule to help with a complex issue and would help in choosing between competing issues. I greatly admired and appreciated Louis Schoolnic. When he passed, Marion County lost its greatest gentleman attorney of all times, and I lost a mentor and friend.”

The Fairmont State Foundation offered thanks to the Schoolnic family for its generosity.

“Fairmont State is forever grateful for the Schoolnic family and their transformational gift in support of student scholarships. This endowment truly has the power to change

lives through education,” said RJ Gimbl, President and CEO of the Fairmont State Foundation.

“The incredible foresight and generosity of Louis and Elva Schoolnic in creating the original trust will tremendously impact the students of Fairmont State University in perpetuity. The earnings from this endowment will provide the much needed financial assistance to students, thus allowing them to earn their degrees and continue their life’s journey. Further, we applaud the astute management of the trust over the years by Mr. Gary K. Bennett—a true benefactor in so many ways for Fairmont State University,” said Craig Walker, Chair of the Fairmont State Foundation Board of Directors.

The mission of the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., is to support, through ethical stewardship, the mission of Fairmont State University. The Foundation will identify, establish and cultivate meaningful relationships with FSU alumni, as well as potential and existing funding constituencies to meet contributor needs while securing funds and supporters for priority objectives identified by the FSU Board of Governors. For more information, visit [www.fsufoundation.org](http://www.fsufoundation.org).



#putabrickonit

The CLASS OF 2017 and the Fairmont State Foundation are working together to continue the Senior Class Gift tradition encouraging seniors to leave a lasting mark on the campus that they love. The CLASS OF 2017 has selected as its project the creation of a brick pathway in the circular area on the east side of the Falcon Center, allowing more use of that space as a pathway between the residence halls and the Falcon Center. FSU students can purchase a personalized brick for the pathway for \$20.17. Alumni and friends of the CLASS OF 2017 are encouraged to donate to the campaign in honor of the CLASS OF 2017 and the imprint that FSU makes on the community and has made in their lives. Alumni and friends can purchase personalized bricks for the pathway for \$50 each. In this way, all members of the Falcon family have the opportunity to leave a true lasting impression on campus for years to come!



# Falcons Compete in National Championship Game



The Falcons are coming off a historic 34-3 season that includes the teams' first regular season conference championship in 21 years and the program's second NCAA Division II Elite Eight appearance.

While in Sioux Falls, at the Elite Eight, Fairmont State rolled past Rollins in the national quarterfinals and locked down Bellarmine in the national semifinals to earn a spot in the program's first-ever NCAA Division II National Championship Game. The Falcons came up one win shy of a national title.

The Falcons were also ranked in the top five in the country for the final 13 weeks of the season and were ranked No. 1 in the country this season for the first time since 1976.

In his fifth season as head coach at Fairmont State, Jerrod Calhoun was named Basketball Times National Coach of the Year.

The Falcons, who set a program record with 34 wins in a season and won their first regional title since 1998, will say goodbye to a group of four seniors who left unforgettable marks on the program. Thomas Wimbush scored over 1,700 career points as a four-year starter for the Falcons and is also in fourth in school history in career blocks. Shammgod Wells leaves Fairmont State as the all-time school leader in both assists and steals. Trevor Andrews-Evans made a living blocking shots during his career, ending his senior season in second place in FSU history.

In addition to earning All-America honors, Matt Bingaya also scored over 1,200 career points in just two seasons at Fairmont State.

## FSU Student Named New Face of Civil Engineering



Kathleen McDiffitt, a student at Fairmont State University (FSU) in West Virginia, was recently named one of ten 2017 New Faces of Civil Engineering—College Edition by the American Society

of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

This recognition program promotes the achievement of young civil engineers by highlighting their academic success, volunteerism and dedication to making a positive impact on society through their chosen profession. McDiffitt of Easton, Pa., is eligible for selection as ASCE's national representative in the New Faces of Engineering program, sponsored by the DiscoverE. The person selected to be ASCE's New Face for the national program will also receive a \$1,000 cash scholarship.



## The Fairmont State Foundation joined the Fairmont State Alumni Association to host a 2017 MEC Tournament Social in Charleston, WV.



*We would like to thank our sponsor, Hendrickson & Long, along with Adelpia Sports Bar and Grille for providing a prime location and delicious food.*



Hendrickson & Long PLLC

## FALCON1000

After another successful year, the Fighting Falcons \$1,000 Club is pleased to announce its fourth annual campaign. Once again, we are excited to share this special invitation for you to "join the team behind the teams!" The \$1,000 Club is comprised of a group of loyal Fairmont State alumni and friends who share a common desire to provide Fighting Falcon athletic teams with the extra resources necessary to successfully compete in Division II athletics.

As a member of the \$1,000 Club, you directly help our athletic teams establish themselves among the best in the Mountain East Conference. The \$1,000 Club was created to support two vital aspects – scholarships and necessary expenses, such as trav-

el, post-game meals and equipment. You may choose to designate your money to the Fairmont State Athletic Association (FSAA), which funds scholarships for student-athletes, or you may choose to designate your money to a specific athletic program of your choice.

Your support is the critical piece to providing the necessary tools for our student-athletes to succeed on and off the court or playing field. By joining the \$1,000 Club, you become an important member of an elite group of people committed to the success of FSU Athletics.

For more information please contact Chad Fowler at (304) 333-3650 or Chad.fowler@fairmontstate.edu. Thank you in advance for your support of our athletic programs.

## 1865 HERITAGE SOCIETY

The 1865 Heritage Society honors those special individuals who have chosen to include Fairmont State in their will or estate plan. The Society provides a strong foundation upon which Fairmont State may continue to advance its time-honored tradition of providing quality education.

Members of the Heritage Society have the foresight to understand that the future success of Fairmont State depends on the plans we make today. The goal of the Society is to acknowledge these individuals for their vision and to provide a lasting tribute in their honor. Heritage Society recognition is a life-long legacy for donors and their families.

*Please contact The Fairmont State Foundation to learn more about how to support Fairmont State through gift planning*