

FOUNDATION NEWS



Bill Lindsey, James Johnson, Paul Brownlee, Mike Arcure, and Budd Sapp pose for a photo during the 2022 Basketball Alumni Day on February 19.

Basketball Alumni Day

More than 25 former men's and women's basketball players and their families joined us at Joe Retton Arena for Basketball Alumni Day on February 19 to watch the Fighting Falcons take on West Liberty University. Alumni were recognized at half-time of the men's game.

Coach Koenig and Coach Anderson invited basketball alumni to join the team for the 2022 Senior Day game, where graduating student athletes were honored for their achievements. This year the Fighting Falcons battled into overtime as the crowd cheered. The excitement and energy in Joe Retton Arena was unmatched.

See page 5 for the stats and accomplishments of our Fighting Falcon Hall of Fame inductees in attendance.

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Alumni Create Scholarship for College of Education, Health and Human Performance Students

Two Grafton, West Virginia natives have established a new endowed scholarship for students at Fairmont State University.

David and Barbara Riggleman, both Fairmont State alumni, chose to support the College of Education, Health and Human Performance through the David and Barbara Riggleman Endowed Scholarship because of the impact that educators had on their lives.

"We were the first members of our families to attend college, so attending Fairmont State enabled us to feel we were a part of the Falcon Family. Small class sizes enabled us to feel connected to our fellow students and our professors," said Barbara. "Our lives were greatly enriched with all the experiences we received through our high school years and at Fairmont State, and we want other students to have the same opportunities."

David completed his business degree at Fairmont State in 1969 and taught at a technical school while he served in the United States Air Force. Following his military service, he enjoyed a 36-year career at Monongahela Power Company. Barbara finished her degree in English in 1976 before going on to enrich the lives of students at Grafton High School as an English teacher.

"It is through the loyal and generous support of David and Barbara Riggleman that future students may be able to complete their educational dreams. With the increases in costs of higher education, more students' scholarships are woefully needed at Fairmont State. Scholarships help relieve part of the financial pressure faced by most students today," according to Gary K. Bennett, President of the Fairmont State Foundation.

Nearly 90% of students at Fairmont State rely on some form of financial aid to cover the costs of pursuing a degree.

"David and Barbara Riggleman are perfect examples of what it means to have a Falcon Heart," said Fairmont State University President, Mirta M. Martin. "Hard-working and generous, they know the impact a Fairmont State education had on their own lives. Through the David and Barbara Riggleman Endowed Scholarship, they're enabling that transformative opportunity to remain accessible for future generations of Falcons."

The David and Barbara Riggleman Endowed Scholarship will be available to students in the College of Education, Health and Human Performance with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. First preference will be given to students from Taylor County, West Virginia.

Program Spotlight: Elementary Education

The Elementary Education program at Fairmont State University's College of Education, Health and Human Performance is currently serving 78 students preparing for careers in the classroom. The mission of the Elementary Education program, led by Department Chair and Assistant Professor Toni Poling, is to prepare reflective and responsive elementary educators who possess the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to help all students in kindergarten through grade six learn.

Poling is a seasoned educator, starting her career in the field with 16 years as a public school teacher. In 2017, she was named the West Virginia State Teacher of the year - an award that fueled her desire to move to higher education. "After being named West Virginia Teacher of the Year, I had a renewed commitment to ensuring that every student in our state have a qualified teacher in their classroom." Poling shared. "It's that commitment that led me to Fairmont State University."

In addition to her role as Department Chair and supervisor for undergraduate field experiences, Poling teaches courses in instructional design, action research, and content area reading in the Elementary Education program. She is also an instructor in the graduate Education Leadership program.

Elementary school teachers play an important role in the education and development of children, creating a foundation for future school success and life opportunities. The Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education provides opportunities

for degree candidates seeking certification in a K-6 multi-subject classroom. In addition to the foundational curriculum, students can pursue additional specializations in math or special education if they choose. During their higher education experience, students complete course work on education theory, and gain exposure in curriculum development methods. Each student also completes field experiences and a year-long teaching residency.

"Along with four field experiences, students in the Elementary Education Program will benefit from a year-long residency during their senior year." Poling explained when asked what makes Fairmont State's Elementary Education program unique. "Fairmont State's residency program is an extensive clinical experience providing candidates the opportunity to integrate educational theory with practice while co-teaching in a K-6 classroom with a highly skilled public-school educator. Graduates of this program will have earned approximately 900 hours of classroom experience upon successful program completion."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of kindergarten and elementary school teachers is expected to grow by 7% from 2020 to 2030, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Over the decade, 124,300 openings for kindergarten and elementary school teachers are projected on average each year. This growth is expected, in part, due to increased enrollment in public schools and anticipated retirement trends.



Scholarship Established for Students at the College of Nursing

A retired West Virginia nurse has created an endowment to support full-time nursing students at Fairmont State University. The Elizabeth A. Wilson Endowed Nursing Scholarship will serve full time nursing students who demonstrate a financial need, with a preference for students from Preston County, West Virginia and Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth A. Wilson, who spent her childhood near Hazelton, West Virginia, attended nursing school at Monongalia General Hospital. Her nursing education was supported by a scholarship from the Monongalia General Hospital Ladies Auxiliary that allowed her to graduate without student debt. Wilson began her nursing career in the obstetrics department at Mon General, before relocating to Beltsville, Maryland for a position with Leland Memorial Hospital.

"Because I received a scholarship from the Monongalia General Hospital Ladies Auxiliary that covered my three years of education at Monongalia General Hospital School of Nursing, I feel obligated to help others," said Wilson.

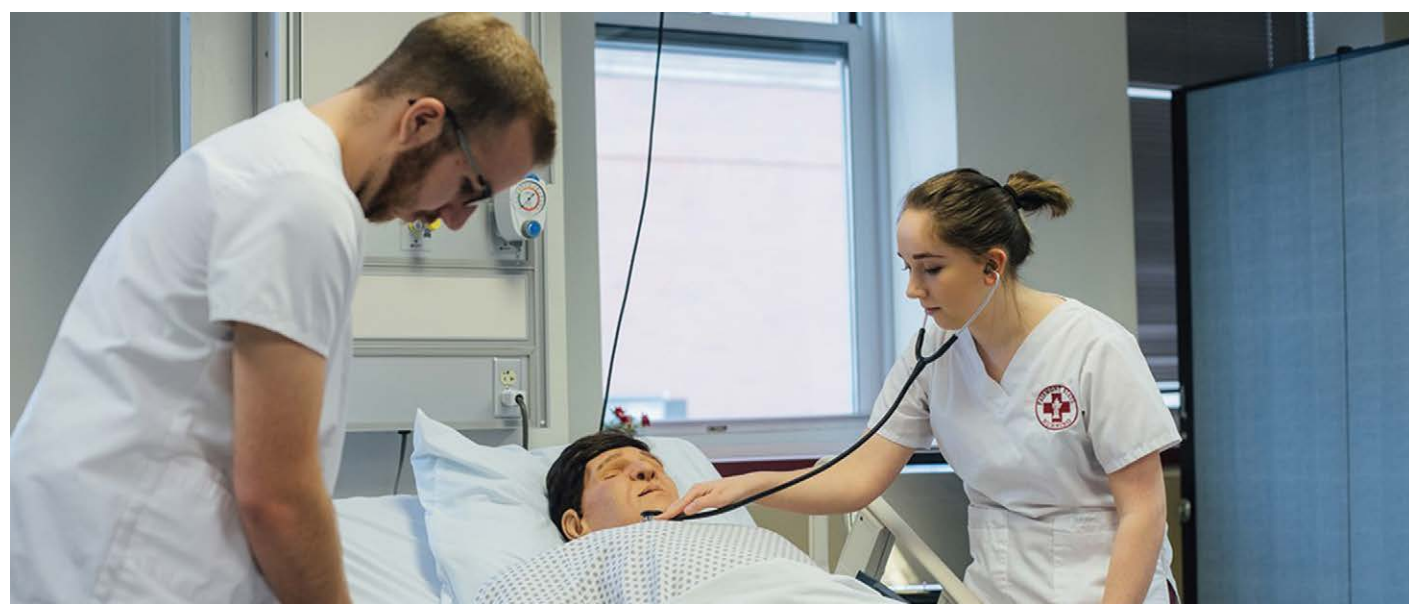
Following the loss of her husband to cancer, Wilson remarried and moved to Iowa. Through savvy financial planning and collective experience in business and management, the couple were able to create and manage a charitable foundation

after retirement. The Mountaintop Foundation, during its 20 years in operation, provided annual financial awards to 94 college students.

After dissolving The Mountaintop Foundation, Wilson and her husband chose to continue to support students through endowments at three regional universities.

"The remaining foundation assets were used to create endowments at West Virginia University and Penn State University, but they were not specifically for nursing students," she explained. "I still wanted to create something that was just for nursing education, therefore I chose Fairmont State for this endowed scholarship program."

Fairmont State University College of Nursing offers a range of nursing education programs including an Associate of Science in Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and a School Nurse Certification program. Programs are designed to meet the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students, offering a combination of in-person and online learning models. Their curriculum includes training in a state-of-the-art simulation lab, skills lab, and clinical experiences through local healthcare facilities, preparing nursing students to be exceptional nursing professionals.



Basketball Alumni Day 2022

Hall of Fame Inductees in Attendance on February 19

Kara (Morris) Adkins
2013 Hall of Fame Inductee
Women's Basketball
1996-2000

- Three-time first team All-WVIAC - 1998, 1999, 2000
- Fourth all-time in career scoring with 1,771 points
- Third in school history with 942 rebounds
- Fifth-highest career scoring average in FSU history (16.2)
- Tied for seventh all-time career free throw percentage (73.6)
- 10th highest single-season scoring avg. in school history (19.0)

Mike Arcure
2016 Hall of Fame Inductee
Meritorious Service
Athlete, Coach, Donor

- Standout second baseman for the FSU baseball team
- Helped lead FSU to Small College World Series - 1958
- Member of WVIAC Championship Baseball team - 1958
- Developed Fairmont State's Recreation major and intramural program in 1968
- Longtime basketball assistant under coach Joe Retton
- Won nine conference titles and made eight NAIA National Tournament appearances as assistant basketball coach
- Played vital role in the recruitment of five NAIA All-Americans
- Distinguished leader of the FSAA for many decades

Paul Brownlee
2005 Hall of Fame Inductee
Men's Basketball, Baseball
1975-1978

- Four-year letterman in both basketball and baseball
- First Team All-WVIAC in basketball - 1976, 1978
- WVIAC All-Tournament Team - 1976, 1978
- 27th all-time career scorer in basketball with 1,453 points
- Member of four WVIAC basketball championship teams - 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978
- First team All-WVIAC in baseball - 1976, 1977
- WVIAC 'Hitter of the Year', .466 batting average - 1977
- Region 7 Rawlings 'Big Stick' Award winner - 1977

Wayne Denham
2008 Hall of Fame Inductee
Men's Basketball
1966-1970

- Four-year letterman
- Scored 1,643 points and notched 2,035 rebounds
- Set conference record 644 rebounds in single season - 1967-1968
- Won two regular season WVIAC titles and one tournament championship
- Led team to two NAIA tournaments, including a run to the finals in 1967-68

Vicki Huffman
2001 Hall of Fame Inductee
Women's Basketball
1980-1984

- NAIA All-America - 1984
- First Team All-WVIAC - 1982, 1983, 1984
- WVIAC All-Tournament Team - 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984
- Scored 1,806 career points and grabbed 1,204 rebounds
- Set school record for rebounds in a game (23) and in a single season (353)

Bill Lindsey
2004 Hall of Fame Inductee
Men's Basketball
1971-1975

- Scored a school record 2,578 points
- NAIA All-America - 1975
- Led Falcons to four WVIAC Tournament titles - 1972-1975
- WVIAC Tournament MVP - 1974, 1975
- Set school record for points in a single season (927) - 1975

Fairmont Siblings Establish Memorial Scholarship

Two sisters from Marion County, along with family and friends, have chosen to honor the life of their mother with a gift to Fairmont State University, totaling \$26,000. The gift will establish the Estaline May Fleming Memorial Scholarship supporting students in the College of Education, Health and Human Performance.

Fairmont native, Estaline May Fleming studied Family and Consumer Sciences at Fairmont State, earning her degree in 1976. Fleming was active in the Fairmont community, serving as a life-long member of the Rock Lake Club, remaining engaged with her sorority, participating in the Mountain Heritage Quilters Guild of Marion County, and volunteering with Meals on Wheels.

"By honoring the life and legacy of Estaline May Fleming, her children, family and friends pay exceptional tribute to her support for higher education at Fairmont State University. Establishing a scholarship in her name ensures that her enthusiasm for her community will endure through the educational pursuits of deserving students in the College of Education, Health and Human Performance," said Gary K. Bennett, President of the Fairmont State Foundation.

Fleming's daughters, Dr. Judie Charlton and Nan Murray, have chosen to honor her memory with this scholarship because of their family history with the University. Mrs. Fleming and her husband, William "Hoppy" Fleming, were avid supporters of Fairmont State, regularly attending games and events and

enjoying the camaraderie of students, employees and fans of the Institution.

"Supporting Fairmont State is important because my family grew up in Fairmont, and Fairmont State was always an intricate part of our foundation. My mother and father attended Fairmont State, and my sister and I started our college experience at Fairmont State," Murray said. "Fairmont State has always been a key part of our community."

The Estaline May Fleming Memorial Scholarship will be available to students in the College of Education, Health and Human Performance with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.



Baseball Alumni Day - April 9

Fairmont State Baseball Alumni Day will be held on Saturday, April 9. The Fighting Falcons will take on Wheeling University in a doubleheader. The first game will be at 1 p.m. followed by the second game at 4 p.m.

Baseball Alumni and their guests are invited to a meet and greet with the team after the second game. The meet and greet

will be held at Buffalo Wild Wings located at 45 Betten Ct., Bridgeport, WV and will start at 6:30 p.m.

Baseball Alumni, please let us know you will be attending by registering for the event by Friday, April 1. We look forward to seeing you. Register at fsufoundation.org/baseball-alumni-day

Liebrecht Joins Staff as Director of Development



Tim Liebrecht has joined the Fairmont State Foundation staff as the new Director of Development.

Tim holds more than a decade of experience in development roles. In recent years, he has been actively partnering with organizations throughout North-Central West Virginia to promote change and growth in the region. His experience includes fundraising, community development, and economic development.

"I'm so grateful for this opportunity to build on the mission of the Fairmont State Foundation." Tim said when asked why he is excited about his new position. "Fairmont State University is an incredible asset to our region and the state of West Virginia. I look forward to continuing to work with the Fairmont community, alumni, and donors to build on the fundraising successes the Foundation has achieved in recent years and create exciting opportunities for students."

For the last two years, Tim has served as the Executive Director for Main Street Fairmont – a downtown revitalization organization that focuses on economic development, historic preservation, and community engagement. Tim is a native of southeastern Michigan and graduate of Hyles-Anderson College in Crown Point, Indiana. He lives in Morgantown with his wife and two children.

Tim is active in his community and serves as the Worship Leader at Faith Baptist Church in Morgantown. He is the co-founder of the FUEL (Forming United Emerging Leaders) program, in collaboration with the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.

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