

SPRING EDITION | MARCH 2023



There is something special about the spring months on campus that every Falcon will likely remember. As students prepare for finals and seniors prepare for graduation, the days become a little warmer and the library is a little fuller. Those final days before they don their cap and gown are bittersweet, to say the least. They look forward to new adventures while saying goodbye to classmates who have become friends and faculty that have become mentors.

Little do they know, Fairmont State has one final lesson for them: you may leave campus, but you will always be a Falcon! The friends and memories made at the College on the Hill long outlast the time spent on campus. Whether you return to campus to cheer on the Fighting Falcons during a football game, or a song on the radio takes you back to your days performing Song Fest, the lessons and friendships will never leave you.

Please enjoy the Spring 2023 edition of the *Emeritus News*. We hope it brings you fond memories.

FAIRMONT STATE THEN AND NOW



1967 EMERITUS FEATURE: JAMES AND ROBERTA ATHA STROSNIDER

Looking back at their years as students at Fairmont State, Jim and Roberta Atha Strosnider could confidently say that they made the most of their time as Falcons. Something they loved about the College on the Hill was the many opportunities to be involved in activities with a very inclusive student body. In addition to their studies that would prepare them for successful careers, mostly in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Jim in insurance claims management and Roberta in Education, they also found time to participate in activities on campus. Jim was an active member of Theta Xi Fraternity serving as president and representative to Inter Panhellenic, while Roberta was an active member of Gamma Chi Chi, Phi Mu, served as the Junior Class Vice President and participated in Blazers.

They recall meeting many people at Fairmont State who made a lasting impression. Jim credits Dean Turley and Joe Retton for giving him the tools to further develop his leadership skills and later successfully manage large numbers of individuals in the insurance industry. Roberta credits her education professors with doing a wonderful job of preparing her for student teaching and a career that spans over 50 years. She particularly remembers Dr. Carl Cecil and Dr. Frye and how their lessons on education psychology and best practices prepared her for life-long learning. Another mentor that Roberta remembers is Mr. Hunter Conrad, Director of Student Personnel. As a student worker in his office, Roberta learned to connect with students on a personal level and assist them with their needs outside of academics.

Jim and Roberta recall fellow classmates who were impactful as well. Perhaps most notably was when Jim lavaliered (a pre-engagement tradition of presenting a necklace with his fraternity's letters) and later pinned (a signal of engagement for them) Roberta. The Brothers of Theta Xi were there to serenade her on both occasions and later named her Theta Xi Sweetheart. The couple is still in touch with many members of both Theta Xi and Roberta's sororities, Gamma Chi Chi and Phi Mu. Song Fest was huge for them, and daily visits to the "Nickel" were a must. Roberta lived in the "new dorm" and fondly remembers enjoying popcorn with friends in the evenings after long nights of studying. They both enjoyed attending sporting events on campus, and Jim fondly remembers traveling with friends to Kansas City to see the Falcons' basketball team compete. Roberta and Jim now reside in Florida, but they remain active members of the Falcon Community by visiting the College on the Hill when they can and supporting a scholarship for students studying teacher education. In addition to the excellent education they received, they describe the best parts of Fairmont State to be the life-long relationships made there.



Share your emeritus story

Would you like to share your story with us? We welcome opportunities to feature alumni stories and photographs in Fairmont State Foundation newsletters, on our website, and on social media.

If you would like to tell us about your time at Fairmont State, please call 304-534-8786 or email marissa@fsufoundation.org.

HOMECOMING 2022

This past fall, Fairmont State University, in cooperation with the Alumni Association and Fairmont State Foundation, welcomed home alumni, students, friends and family for its annual Homecoming celebration.

The weekend of events began with an inaugural Speaker Series presented by eight prominent alumni. Speakers were invited back to campus to share insight from their career successes to current students. The Speaker Series was followed by the homecoming parade in Downtown Fairmont led by parade marshal Maureen Kennedy Wolfe, a 1949 Fairmont graduate.

The next day featured the Alumni & Emeritus Luncheon in the Falcon Center in which distinguished alumni were recognized for various achievements.

- Outstanding Alumni: Chris Pallotta and Jeff Crane
- Outstanding Alumnae: Jacque Dooley and Christy Miller
- Outstanding Young Alumni: Kayla Lantz and Robert Kozul
- Alumni of Achievement: Rick Biafore and Steve Rodriguez
- Alumna of Achievement: Jennifer Wilson
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Don Moroose

The luncheon was followed by the Fairmont State Athletics Association Hall of Fame dinner later that evening, in which recognition is given to former student athletes. The Hall of Fame inductees included: Richard Blackstone (1970), Ted Jackson (1972), Tim Byard (1982), Chris Chance (1993), Matthew Vance (2005), Chelsea Cobb Salvatore (2013) and Danielle DiCarlo Cutri (2015).

Falcons past and current gathered at Duvall-Rosier Field on the last day of homecoming for the Alumni and College Tailgates before the football game against UNC Pembroke. The Fighting Falcons concluded a celebratory weekend with a victory of 25-23.



2022 Alumni Award Winners



Parade Marshal Maureen Wolfe



2022 Outstanding Alumnus Chris Pallotta

— A Legacy THAT LASTS Forever —

Would you enjoy knowing generations will benefit from your legacy? Now is the perfect time to consider establishing an endowment. An endowment carries your wishes and legacy forward.

What is an endowment?

An endowment is a fund you create for a specific cause or purpose that you want to support for generations to come. While many endowments are made to fund scholarships, endowments can be established to support any funding need for students or the university. The minimum amount to establish an endowment at Fairmont State is \$25,000.

How does it work?

You sign an agreement with us establishing and memorializing your purpose for the endowment. We then invest your gift according to our general endowment policy. As your endowment grows, we distribute earnings to fund scholarships for students or the cause of your choice, leaving the principle intact to ensure your fund can provide for Fairmont State for years to come.

Is an endowment right for you?

If you like the idea of making a difference, an endowment may be your perfect choice. It is simple to establish, and unique to your goals. We are happy to work with you to ensure your legacy makes the impact you desire.

May we help you?

To learn more, please contact us. We would welcome the opportunity to answer further questions and work with you and your advisors.

Phone: 304-534-8786
Email: fsf@fsufoundation.org

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