

SUMMER EDITION | JUNE 2024



*Thank you for supporting  
the 2024 Day of Giving!*

Fairmont State University held its fifth Falcon Day of Giving on Thursday, February 29 with a goal of raising \$375,000 for programs, teams, and scholarships campus-wide. During this 24-hour giving marathon, 1,199 alumni and friends of Fairmont State raised more than \$530,992, far exceeding the goal.

The Fairmont State Foundation wishes to thank all our donors, ambassadors, and volunteers for participating in the 2024 Day of Giving.

## FAIRMONT STATE THEN AND NOW



### *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'd like to tell us about your time at Fairmont State, please call 304-534-8786 or email [marissa@fsfoundation.org](mailto:marissa@fsfoundation.org).

## 1974: DR. KANDYCE MEO

A 1974 graduate of Fairmont State, Kandyce Meo has fond memories of her time at the College on the Hill. Kandyce is a Fairmont native who was awarded the Benedum Foundation Scholarship after high school. Originally, she had intended to use this scholarship to attend WVU but quickly realized that she felt much more at home at Fairmont State, even before enrolling. Dr. Meo had grown-up visiting Fairmont State to use their library and attend shows in the "big tent" and at the last minute decided that she much preferred staying in Fairmont for the next step in her education journey. A journey that would become a career.



Looking back at her college years, she was glad she made the decision to attend Fairmont State. Dr. Meo attended both WVU and Virginia Tech for graduate programs and ended her career at Clark State College in Springfield, Ohio. Throughout her education and career, she always felt confident in the education she had received at her alma mater. It was clear that Fairmont State had done a tremendous job of preparing her for the real world.

Among the many memories she has of Fairmont State, she recalls wearing the beanie as a freshman, and the pride she felt in wearing it everywhere she went. It was a badge of honor that received notice out in the community. She also remembers working in the Nickel at the snack bar, where a sharply dressed Frank Pulice always made sure to take good care of his workers.

Dr. Meo majored in psychology while studying at Fairmont State. Initially, she had not planned on teaching after college but during a psychology department experiment with team teaching, she found herself enjoying the classroom setting. She often thinks of the ways that some of the professors she had in Fairmont influenced how she managed her own classroom as a professor. She vividly recalls how impressed she was with History Professor Jack Pulsifer. She was so impressed at his wealth of knowledge and ability to teach without any notes. Even when the topic seemed to stray from the day's agenda, he still was able to provide insight and speak intelligently about any topic. When Dr. Meo found herself in her own classroom, she wanted to be like him, teaching without her notes.

There were others, too, that made a lifelong impression on her. One such professor was Assistant Professor of Education, Hugh Springer, who taught philosophy classes. Among the many things he taught his students, he encouraged critical thinking. George Cannon was another that helped his students get real-world experience and even paid positions administering tests while still completing their own studies. Overall, Kandyce remembers having a good experience with the faculty at Fairmont State.

Outside of academics, she found the Fairmont State community to be very kind. During her freshman year, her mother was ill, and the campus community was very accommodating and patient during that time. Even after graduation, she would return to campus to visit and always felt welcomed back. She was appreciative that when visiting past professors and mentors, they always seemed to have plenty of time to visit and chat with her. While she does not return to campus often, she does occasionally come back to Fairmont and even took some time to stop at the Ruth Ann Musick Library on campus during a recent visit. She found the librarians to be helpful and kind. While so much has changed on campus, she was happy to see that some things remain the same, and she will always be welcomed back to the College on the Hill.

## 1959: ERNESTINE KNOX O'NEIL

Ernestine Knox O'Neil enrolled in classes at Fairmont State at the encouragement of her parents. Her father, William Knox, knew that it would be important for her to further her education with a college degree.



William was a coal miner for 45 years and walked to work every day. When he did buy a car for the first time, rather than use it for his own commute, it was used to ensure that Ernestine was able to make it to campus for her classes from their home in Four States.

Ernestine attended Fairmont State as an Elementary Education major during the late fifties. When asked what she remembers most when she thinks back to her time as a Falcon, she quickly responded "acceptance." As the only African American female student enrolled at the time, she found herself to be quickly accepted by both her peers and mentors and was treated no different than anyone else on campus. At the time, West Virginia was a segregated state, but Ernestine explained that it never felt that way during her time at the College on the Hill.

She still looks back with fond memories of both the friends she made and the teachers that helped her along the way. She had many impactful teachers including Ms. Marple, her advisor; Ms. Terry, who taught Spanish; and Ms. Walter, who coached her field hockey team. Field hockey provided Ernestine with opportunities to travel further from home than she ever had before, travelling both regionally and out of state.

After graduating in 1959, Ernestine left the state for more opportunities, she spent 13 years teaching in Warren, OH and an additional 25 years teaching in Detroit, Michigan, often thinking of the lessons she learned during her time at Fairmont State.

Now in retirement, Ernestine still looks back on the support and encouragement that her father gave her during her time in college. He taught her the importance of her education, to always give back to the community, and to continue to push for better.

In honor of the incredible influence her father had on both her education and career, Ernestine now funds the William Knox Endowed Scholarship which supports minority students at Fairmont State. Her generosity has created a legacy for her father that will support future generations of students pursuing their own education.

## GIVE ON YOUR TERMS

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### *Donor Advised Funds Give You Control*

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is an account you establish with a bank, investment company or charity to help you organize your giving to the nonprofit organization(s) important to you.

Each time you contribute money or stocks to the fund, you receive an income tax deduction. Your account administrator invests your funds and when the timing is right for you, you tell the administrator to make a distribution. You choose the amount.

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### *Benefits of a DAF*

- Time your contributions for maximum tax deductions
- Give to charities when you want
- Give anonymously through your fund
- Name children and grandchildren as successor owners to create a legacy

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### *May we help you?*

To learn more, please contact us. We would welcome the opportunity to answer further questions about Donor Advised Funds and show your possible benefits.

Phone: 304-534-8786  
Email: [fsf@fsfoundation.org](mailto:fsf@fsfoundation.org)

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# EMERITUS NEWS



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## FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY Homecoming

1974 graduates, we hope you will join us to be honored as you celebrate the 50th anniversary of your graduation.

For more information and updates, visit [fairmontstate.edu/alumni/homecoming](http://fairmontstate.edu/alumni/homecoming)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OCT. 4 - 5, 2024**



1300 Locust Avenue  
Fairmont, WV 26554

