

# WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



## RECORD YEAR IN FUNDRAISING

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS GAVE \$270  
MILLION TO WVU THIS PAST YEAR

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## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

**WVU Foundation**  
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# NEW COLLEGE OF LAW HARDESTY FELLOWSHIP SUPPORTS PUBLIC SERVICE

A new fellowship established in honor of David Hardesty, WVU President Emeritus and Professor of Law Emeritus, is helping WVU law students work in public service this summer.

The President David C. Hardesty Public Service Fellowship was established at the College of Law by Ola Adekunle, a 2007 graduate, member of the WVU Foundation Board of Directors and senior patent attorney for Google. The multinational technology company provided matching funds for the fellowship.

“President Hardesty epitomizes public service, and he is one example of so many WVU alumni, leaders, teachers, and administrators who are passionate about helping WVU students fulfill their dreams,” Adekunle said. “This is my small way of giving back and encouraging WVU Law students to become leaders in the public service field.”

Hardesty served as the 21st President of WVU, from 1995-2007, and he was a member of the WVU Law faculty for two decades until his retirement in 2018. Adekunle developed a bond with the university leader as a WVU undergraduate.

“President Hardesty’s passion to see students succeed in life and their chosen career cannot be overstated, most notably while he was President of WVU. He took a particular interest in me — not only did he encourage me to attend law school, but he also created an opportunity for me to attend WVU College of Law by helping me find a graduate assistantship position,” Adekunle said.



**David Hardesty**



**Ola Adekunle**

# Foundation raises record \$270M to benefit University students, programs and more

Despite the enduring challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, alumni and friends contributed a record \$270.1 million to the WVU Foundation in fiscal year 2021 to benefit meaningful education, research and outreach activities at WVU.

The remarkable year in fundraising trumps the previous record – \$197.8 million, set in fiscal year 2020 – and reflects the overwhelming spirit of generosity that often brings the University community together. Records show 18,216 donors made 38,480 gifts to WVU from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Alumni comprised more than half of the donors at 9,194.

“To see these record-setting numbers in uncertain economic and social times, and during a pandemic, speaks volumes about the generosity and commitment of our alumni and friends,” WVU Foundation President and CEO Cindi Roth said. “It also speaks to the amazing effort demonstrated by our entire Foundation and fundraising staff at a most challenging and difficult time. I am both deeply grateful and proud.”

Major efforts that added to the Foundation’s fundraising success this past year include “We

Are Stronger Together,” an initiative to provide student scholarships and support, and WVU Day of Giving. Also, two significant multimillion-dollar in-kind software gifts were made during the 2021 fiscal year, along with a \$25 million gift from Brad and Alys Smith to create the Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative. In total, 35 gifts to WVU exceeded \$1 million or more.

“West Virginia University is so fortunate to have such strong and unwavering support from our alumni and friends,” President Gordon Gee said. “These gifts will allow us to continue the investments we are making to help current and future students, retain and attract world-class faculty, aid in our research efforts and bolster improvements to our campuses.”

Several building project campaigns on campus also sparked donor interest, including Reynolds Hall, the new home for the John Chambers College of Business and Economics being constructed along the Morgantown riverfront; a new WVU Medicine Children’s Hospital; and numerous facilities upgrades underway for WVU Athletics.

“I couldn’t be more pleased with our overall fundraising efforts,” said B.J. Davisson, executive vice president and chief development officer for the WVU Foundation. “Despite all kinds of challenges presented with remote work and not being able to meet face-to-face with donors, Foundation staff really stepped up. And not surprisingly, Mountaineer Nation understands the University’s land-grant mission to help the state, and recognizes that private support makes West Virginia a better place.”



## \$270.1 M

**WEST VIRGINIA  
UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM IMPACT**



## 18,216

**TOTAL DONORS**



## 35

**DONORS GAVE MORE  
THAN \$1 MILLION +**



## 9,194

**ALUMNI DONORS**

## 38,480

**TOTAL GIFTS**





# Halliburton software grant aids students at Statler College

Students at the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources will gain practical experience using industry-leading energy exploration and production software thanks to a multimillion-dollar grant by Halliburton Landmark, a Halliburton Company business line.

The in-kind grant includes 200 licenses and maintenance for multiple Halliburton software products focused on geoscience, drilling, economics, production, reservoir management and seismic processing. The company's three-year gift bolsters instruction, scholarship and research within the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering.

"Halliburton software is widely utilized in the oil and gas industry, and this generous grant will help ensure that our students graduate with the most up-to-date skills and experience with the right technology to join the workforce and have an immediate impact," Samuel Ameri, professor and chair of the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering, said. "The software is also essential in the research efforts of the Department, which are focused on technologies that will improve the recovery efficiency of both

oil and natural gas from difficult-to-produce reservoirs around the world."

Founded in 1919, Halliburton is one of the world's largest providers of products and services to the energy industry. Halliburton and WVU's Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering have an almost 20-year working relationship that ensures the company's latest technological tools are available to students for projects, exams, theses, dissertations and more.

"We are excited to continue our commitment to WVU and to see how students use our software programs to develop valuable skillsets for their future careers," said Nagaraj Srinivasan, senior vice president of Landmark, Halliburton Digital Solutions and Consulting.

Josh Dietz is a graduate student from Richmond, Virginia. He has used Halliburton's ARIES petroleum economics in his coursework and GOHFER fracture modeling software in his research. He hopes to work in research and development for industry upon completing his doctorate at WVU.

"I think it is very important to have access to the software, because with the software we can dive deeper into understanding the principles behind fracture development and reservoir development," Dietz said. "It provides a chance for visual learning, which is a great benefit to many students. I am also a teaching assistant for the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering and have seen the improvement in learning for students when implementing the software."

Josh Dietz





**WE ARE  
STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

## Scholarship initiative raises \$23M to assist students

Generous support from alumni, donors and friends is empowering students in need to proceed with their education amid the enduring economic challenges of COVID-19.

“We Are Stronger Together,” a special scholarship initiative launched by the WVU Foundation, has brought in over \$23 million to assist students with tuition, room and board, and other educational expenses.



**Erin Fennelly**

Rising sophomore Erin Fennelly was unsure she could afford to continue her studies after she was laid off from her restaurant job last year. As she struggled to find work, her dad’s job was also affected by the pandemic.

“When I found out that I had received the We Are Stronger Together Scholarship, I felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders,” Fennelly said. “I felt like I could finally start to enjoy college a little more, focus on academics more, focus on my social life more and just do things that I wanted to do rather than stress about the money 24/7.”

Even as COVID-19 safety restrictions ease in West Virginia and beyond, many WVU students and their families are struggling to afford higher education costs due to the pandemic’s lasting financial impact. Without scholarship aid, these students may be forced to suspend attending classes, enroll elsewhere or drop out altogether.

“As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s been inspiring to see Mountaineer Nation come together in support of our students,” B.J. Davisson, executive vice president and chief development officer of the WVU Foundation, said. “Yet we know many of our students still need help to start or continue their higher education. Your gift – no matter the size – will make a difference by helping students move on with their lives and achieve their dreams.”

Fennelly is grateful she can pursue her dream to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing from WVU and help others as a trauma nurse at a big-city hospital. Eventually, she hopes to go on to graduate school to become a nurse practitioner.

“To anyone that donated to this fund, I cannot thank you enough,” Fennelly said. “I can safely say that I had a better freshman-year experience because of you. I enjoyed it more because of you, and I will forever be grateful for how much you helped me.”

Donations to the “We Are Stronger Together” scholarship initiative can be made by contacting Jena Prokopchuk, WVU Foundation executive director of leadership annual giving, at 304-282-5929 or [jprokopchuk@wvuf.org](mailto:jprokopchuk@wvuf.org), or online via a secure giving webpage, <https://give.wvu.edu/c19>



# Memorial crowdfunding effort aids wilderness medicine at WVU

It's been 10 years since Emergency Medicine resident Greg Seftick died in an avalanche at Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park.

Shortly after the tragic accident, the WVU Foundation worked with Seftick's family and the School of Medicine to establish the Dr. Gregory Seftick Wilderness Medicine Fund. The memorial fund promotes and enhances wilderness medicine education, outreach, patient care and research within the WVU Department of Emergency Medicine.

Now, Seftick's family has partnered with the Foundation again to launch a crowdfunding effort that builds upon his legacy. All contributions made via the secure crowdfunding page will help ensure that Seftick's interest in wilderness medicine influences future generations of students and provides opportunities for involvement in the activities and conferences he enjoyed.

Seftick's father, Dan, wrote a memoir, "Real Mountains," in 2016 that recounts the weeklong search for his son and the passion that his son had for both mountains and medicine. All proceeds from the book were distributed to the Seftick Wilderness Medicine Fund and other nonprofit organizations aimed at benefiting programs that meant so much to Greg Seftick during his life.

"I think he would be a little bit overwhelmed by the fund, but I think he would recognize that he's passing along his interests and encouraging those following him in areas like wilderness medicine," Dan Seftick said.

Dr. Erica Shaver, associate professor for the WVU Department of Medical Education, said the money raised has allowed both residents and medical students to travel on wilderness medicine



**Greg Seftick**

immersion experiences, and they are still looking for new, innovative ways to use the funds.

Seftick was born and raised in Afton, Minnesota, where his parents still reside today. He was a 2002 graduate of St. Olaf College, and a 2007 graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School. He completed his Emergency Medicine residency training at WVU in 2010 and served as an attending physician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon, West Virginia, before moving back to Montana to be closer to his beloved Rocky Mountains.

Dan Seftick said his son was never one to fully appreciate the impact he made on the local community. Seeing how the community teamed up in his memory was an eye-opening experience.

"He always had the capability of absorbing information and knowledge, but we really didn't notice how much he loved to share that with other people," Dan Seftick said. "Hearing all these good things about him and observing what he was able to do as a doctor in that short time, I felt he could have really contributed in a lot of ways to society. He had a lot to give. He told me more than once that he only wanted to help people."

# Alum's \$100K gift boosts School of Pharmacy scholarship

School of Pharmacy students with a passion for community pharmacy will benefit from an alumnus's \$100,000 scholarship gift.

Jim Smith recently contributed an additional \$100,000 to bolster his namesake scholarship fund. The scholarship is awarded annually to a pharmacy student with demonstrated financial need who plans to practice community pharmacy.

Smith's gifts to the James F. Smith Scholarship fund and the School of Pharmacy Annual Scholarship fund have provided support for more than 40 students.

"Similar to his leadership in the pharmacy profession, Jim has made an enormous impact on students by his scholarships," William Petros, Gates Wigner Dean of the School of Pharmacy, stated. "He is truly an inspiration to both our students as well as alumni."

Smith, of Cary, North Carolina, earned his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from WVU in 1971. He practiced eight years as a community pharmacist before moving into management and leadership roles for Thrift Drug,



**Judy and Jim Smith**

Eckerd and CVS. He later served as CEO for National Medical Health Card Systems Inc. and QoL Meds LLC before retiring in 2015. He continued to serve as a board member for a private equity company until 2020.

He credits support from his wife, Judy, and the strong educational foundation laid by the WVU School of Pharmacy for much of his success.

"Pharmacy gives you such a nice background and such a great way of thinking things through, because a lot of logic applies in all your classes and things like that," Smith said. "It gave me a great way to further my career in what I wanted to do. Without that strong foundation and many experiences, I could never have succeeded as a CEO of two different companies."

Smith has already committed to making another \$100,000 scholarship gift by year's end.

## Irvin Stewart Society New Members

The Irvin Stewart Society honors those who have included gift provisions in their wills, created income-producing gifts, provided for testamentary donations of retirement assets, donated life insurance, and transferred their real estate remainder interest to benefit WVU and its affiliated organizations.

Carol S. Adams, Hendersonville, NC  
Douglass H. Adams '60, Hendersonville, NC  
Ronald R. Bowser '71, '73, Grantsville, MD  
Scott G. Branham '05, '19, Reston, VA  
Barbara Smith Brown '59, Dubuque, IA  
James H. Brown, PhD '53, Wooster, OH  
Yvonne A. Brown, Wooster, OH  
Barry H. Cain, Knoxville, TN  
Wendy Amrhein Cain '94, '97, Knoxville, TN  
Judy Cohen, Morgantown, WV  
Stanley H. Cohen, PhD '75, Morgantown, WV  
April L. Dowler, JD '78, '81, Venice, FL  
Daniel Garland, Henderson, NV  
James T. Ghrist '68, Taylors, SC

Ed Gilger '65, Princeton, WV  
Joseph Hinson '71, Salisbury, MD  
Margaret Hinson, Salisbury, MD  
Patricia A. Jens, MD '85, Milwaukee, WI  
William M. Knowles Jr. "Mick", Charleston, WV  
John W. League '77, Venice, FL  
Richard I. Lee '72, '75, Stamford, CT  
Joseph S. Luchini '70, Clifton, VA  
Victoria C. Luchini, Clifton, VA  
Valerie Nieman '78, Reidsville, NC  
Agnes L. Richmond, Dalton, GA  
John D. Richmond, MD '70, '74, Dalton, GA  
Rebecca A. Thacker, PhD '75, Athens, OH  
Diane B. Wilson '71, Rome, GA



A listing of all members can be found at [www.wvuf.org](http://www.wvuf.org), select Donor Recognition and Irvin Stewart Society.



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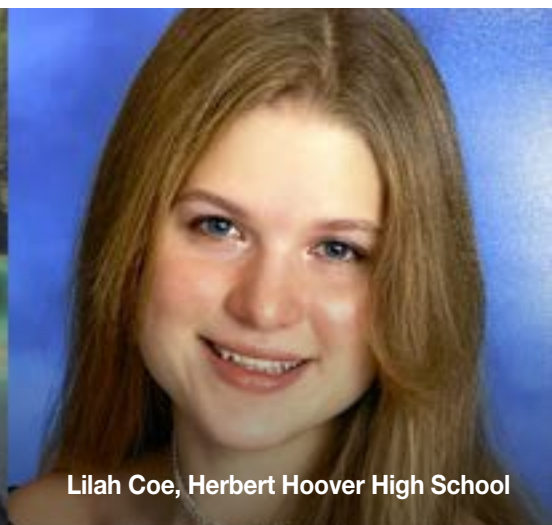
Make your impact at [give.wvu.edu](https://give.wvu.edu)

## 2021 WVU FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

Five of the state's young emerging leaders have been named to the 2021 cohort of WVU Foundation Scholars, the highest academic scholarship the University awards.



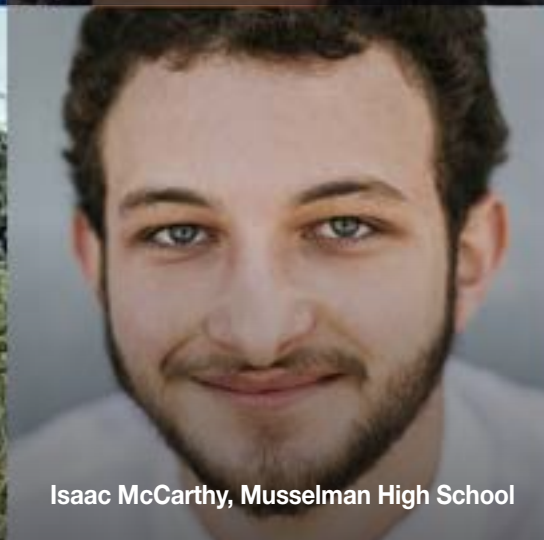
Laasya Chennuru, Martinsburg High School



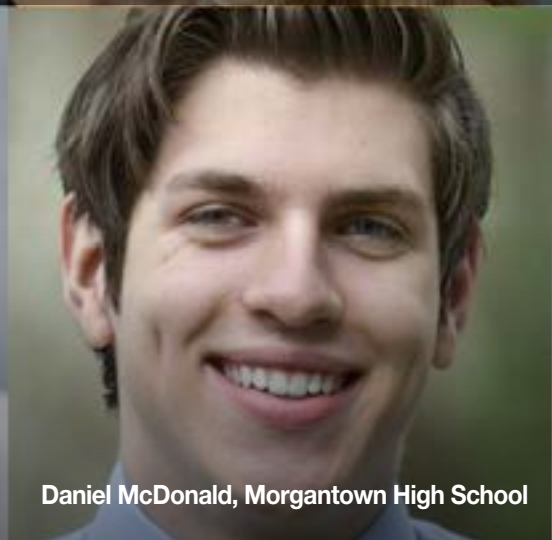
Lilah Coe, Herbert Hoover High School



Emily Escue, South Charleston High School



Isaac McCarthy, Musselman High School



Daniel McDonald, Morgantown High School