

NEWS FROM

A STATE OF MINDS

The Campaign for West Virginia's University

CAMPAIGN NEARS \$850 MILLION

WVU's private fundraising campaign "A State of Minds" is nearing the \$850 million mark with more than two-and-a-half years to go in the Campaign to raise \$1 billion.

Alumni and friends of the University contributed \$846 million through March 31, 2015, or nearly 85 percent of the \$1 billion goal. That represents an increase of \$27 million during the past quarter.



"Alumni and friends continue to demonstrate their commitment to and passion for this University through their generous giving," said Cindi Roth, WVU Foundation president and CEO.

"We are thankful for every dollar donated to this Campaign, and pledge to continue our focused efforts. There is a new sense of energy and excitement around campus, and that is bringing new initiatives and programs that will directly benefit students, research and citizens across the state."

Through March 31, 2015, the Foundation says 76,734 donors have contributed to the Campaign, including more than 32,000 alumni and over 5,000 corporations.

Since the beginning of the Campaign, 595 student scholarships have been created including 434 endowed scholarships; 43 endowed faculty chairs and professorships have been started; and 195 new research funds have been added, including 103 that are permanently endowed.

Visit www.astateofminds.com for information on how you can help support the Campaign.

INSIDE

Mascot Fund	2
Bean Scholarship	3
Alumni Weekend	4

'DREAM FIRST' SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

WVU and the WVU Foundation are partnering to raise \$50 million for student scholarships. The campaign called "Dream First" will urge alumni and friends to support students as they "dream big" and pursue their passions. The campaign is being launched in response to what WVU President Gordon Gee says is a "difficult, but necessary" increase in tuition.

"West Virginia University remains extremely cognizant of our students and their families as they face the financial aspects of obtaining a college education – and we want to do right by them," President Gee said.

Foundation Board of Directors Chairman Gary Pell said, "The WVU Foundation is fully supportive of this initiative. Helping students achieve their higher education dreams by enabling greater access and making it more affordable is, and will continue to be, one the Foundation's top priorities. It's extremely important to our University and our donors."

COUPLE'S GIFT HONORS COMMITMENT, DETERMINATION OF MOUNTAINEER MASCOT

To don the buckskins and represent WVU as the Mountaineer mascot is an honor that has been bestowed on fewer than 65 alumni. The mascot, a beloved symbol for fans, students and alumni all over the world, embodies the true spirit of the University.

For alumni Steve ('79, '84) and Karen ('81) Farmer of Charleston, West Virginia, the Mountaineer is an ambassador who, in addition to rallying fans at athletic events, is committed to the WVU values of pride, hard work, integrity and determination. The couple also has witnessed firsthand the tireless efforts and expenses of the individual who takes on this role as he or she travels throughout the state and country attending sendoffs, visiting local elementary schools and participating in other community events. In recognition of the dedication of these individuals, the couple established the Stephen and Karen Farmer Mountaineer Mascot Fund through the WVU Alumni Association to provide support for the mascot's outreach efforts.

The \$125,000 endowment will provide financial assistance for expenses not covered through the mascot's scholarship/stipend, including lab fees, books, travel expenses, equipment (buckskins), and other items necessary to fulfill the role of Mountaineer mascot.

"The Mountaineer mascot is one of the most visible faces of West Virginia University," Karen Farmer said. "These students travel thousands of miles each year to reach out to alumni, prospective students, fans, school children and others, and often some of the expenses are made out of pocket from the student. With this gift we hope to provide the mascot opportunities to attend even more events that showcase the very best of West Virginia University."



Mountaineer Mascot Michael Garcia

ACADEMY DISPLAY HONORS WVU'S MOST SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES

Since its inception more than 25 years ago, the WVU Alumni Association's Academy of Distinguished Alumni has honored nearly 100 graduates who have achieved many firsts in the areas of medicine, military, science, education, business, athletics and other professional fields. These alumni truly represent the very best of WVU.



Dr. Rustin Moore (left), 2015 Academy inductee, and Dean Dan Robison, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, interact with the new WVU Academy of Distinguished Alumni Wall located at The Erickson Alumni Center.

To lift up and celebrate those professional success stories, an anonymous donor generously provided a gift to establish the Academy of Distinguished Alumni interactive display at The Erickson Alumni Center. With the touch of a finger visitors can learn about members of the Academy, including bios of each distinguished alumnus, media clips and other information about this elite group.

"This display will serve as a permanent reminder of the successes of this elite group of Mountaineers," said WVU Alumni Association President and CEO Stephen L. Douglas. "As thousands of visitors make their way through the alumni center each year, they will be able to learn about WVU's most distinguished alums. The display also will serve as a reminder for our current students as to what they can achieve through hard work, determination and passion. We are extremely grateful to our donor for recognizing the importance of celebrating these graduates."

EYE INSTITUTE RECEIVES GRANT FROM BERNARD MCDONOUGH FOUNDATION

A WVU Eye Institute program that provides vision care to residents in rural areas of West Virginia is getting a financial boost.

The Appalachian Vision Outreach Program (AVOP) has received a \$40,000 grant from the Bernard McDonough Foundation. The grant will support adult vision screenings, general clinics, sub-specialty clinical services and education on the importance of vision health for those who do not have access to regular eye care and are not able to travel to the Eye Institute because of lack of transportation or other barriers.

"Thanks to the Bernard McDonough Foundation's support of AVOP, we are able to continue our adult vision outreach services to West Virginians who may otherwise not receive the vision care they need for independence and employability," said Ronald L. Gross, M.D., director of the WVU Eye Institute and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology.

RALPH & BARBARA BEAN ESTABLISH MUSICAL THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP



Ralph and Barbara Bean along with WVU freshman Michaela Edens

During her many years of teaching music in West Virginia, Barbara Bean saw a large number of talented students go out of state to study musical theatre.

That's why when the WVU College of Creative Arts established a new BFA in musical theatre, Barbara and her husband Ralph decided to endow a scholarship at their alma mater for outstanding students studying in the program.

The first Ralph and Barbara Bean Musical Theatre Scholarship was presented this spring to Michaela Edens, of Charleston, West Virginia, a freshman in the WVU School of Theatre and Dance.

"When we learned that the College of Creative Arts was establishing this new major, we felt it was an opportunity to invest in its future," Barbara Bean said. "Any new program's success is enhanced by attracting the highest caliber of students, and we are proud to be a part of that effort."

GIFT IMPROVES HOME FOR SERVICE DOG TRAINING



Cali and Elkie

Two-legged students and four-legged students alike at WVU will benefit from a recent gift that will create a new learning space designed to help train service dogs.

A gift from the William F. and Lynn D. Gauss Foundation will allow both students and the dogs they are training to help people with disabilities hone their skills.

"This gift has provided resources for the equipment needed for the animal care and maintenance portion of our service dog training facility out at the Animal Science Farm," said Matt Wilson, professor of animal and nutritional sciences and director of the WVU CARES Initiative in WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

The improvements included stainless steel kennel runs, a grooming station, and a washer and dryer. The gift also funded an exercise area, including agility equipment and fencing.

MARC BULGER FOUNDATION ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED



Marc Bulger

A gift from The Marc Bulger Foundation is creating an endowment that will provide a yearly scholarship for WVU student-athletes whose parent(s) or sibling(s) are on active duty, serving in the U.S. military or serving as law enforcement officers.

Founded by Bulger, a former Mountaineer and NFL quarterback, The Marc Bulger Foundation was established in 2007 and strives to

find innovative ways to provide funding to a diverse range of programs designed to benefit men and women in uniform, specifically, but not limited to, men and women in armed services, as well as police and fire personnel.

"This endowment is a way for me to give back to West Virginia University and continue to support the families of the men and women in uniform," explained Bulger. "My grandfather was a city police officer for 32 years, and that, in addition to several other factors, such as 9/11, impacted my decision to start The Marc Bulger Foundation. Since then, I've worked with quadruple amputees, those suffering from PTSD, and several others, and through this work, I've gotten close to the families of these warriors. Continuing this work is something very near and dear to my heart, as is West Virginia University."

A Mountaineer quarterback from 1996-99, Bulger ranks No. 2 in the WVU record book in career passing yards (8,153), pass attempts (1,023), pass completions (630) and touchdown passes (59). The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native enjoyed an 11-year NFL career and played for the Atlanta Falcons, St. Louis Rams and Baltimore Ravens.

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A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University | www.astateofminds.com
WVU Foundation, Publisher | Bill Nevin, Editor

FORMER ENGLISH PROFESSOR'S ESTATE DONATION SUPPORTS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LEARNING

The Department of English will receive a sizable gift from the estate of longtime, former faculty member Hayden W. Ward, Jr.

Ward passed away at age 74 in 2013, after serving the English department and WVU for 35 years. His estate gift of approximately \$500,000 will form The Hayden W. Ward, Jr. Dept. of English Discretionary Endowment and will support undergraduate student learning opportunities as well as other needs in the department.

"Hayden Ward was a gentle man who, from his childhood, was drawn to literature and baseball and continued to love both until his death last December," said Patrick Conner, professor emeritus of English at WVU.

Ward taught a wide range of courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at WVU. The generous gift reflects Ward's commitment to his field of study and also the University he called home for so many years.

ALUMNI WEEKEND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 5, 2015

- 11 a.m. –** Women of WVU Luncheon
Waterfront Place Hotel
- 6 p.m. –** Woodburn Circle Society Reception/
Dinner *Waterfront Place Hotel*

Saturday, June 6, 2015

- 11:30 a.m. –** Order of Vandalia Induction
Ceremony/Luncheon
Erickson Alumni Center
- 6 p.m. –** Emeritus Induction
Ceremony/Dessert Reception
Lakeview Resort

The WVU Foundation and Alumni Association Boards of Directors hold meetings as well during Alumni Weekend.

ESTATE PLAN GIFTS COUNT

Thinking of including gift support for your favorite part of WVU in your estate plan?

For those who will be age 70 or older by December 31, 2017 (the end of the Campaign), the bonus is your future support through gift provisions in your will or revocable trust counts toward reaching the goal. The same is true if you make the WVU Foundation the beneficiary of a retirement account, annuity or life insurance policy.

If you have already made any of these arrangements, please let us know at 304-284-4000 or info@wvuf.org so that we can have the opportunity to say thank you for your special Campaign support.