

# WVU Alumni & Friends Greater Cincinnati | Dayton Chapter

## Contents

- Page 1: Front Page
- Page 2: Mountaineer Memories
- Page 3: Events / Country Roads Trust
- Page 4: Board Messages
- Page 5: Join / Social Media
- Page 6: Scholarship

## WREN BAKER is Coming to the 'Nati



Our chapter is excited to announce that on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the evening before West Virginia takes on the University of Cincinnati in Men's Basketball, our chapter will be hosting Wren Baker, Athletic Director at WVU, for the evening at the Fire House Grill & Brewery in Blue Ash. We invite you all to attend this event and hear from Wren about his time at WVU as well as his plans for the upcoming year. Wren is a dynamic speaker and will surely engage with all that are in attendance. This will be a great opportunity to relaunch our organization and raise some money for our scholarship fund. Hope to see you all there. Cost will be \$38.95 for early registration and can be paid for on our website <http://cincywvualumni.com>

## ABOUT US

The WVU Alumni Greater Cincinnati Dayton Chapter is a 501c(3) – all volunteer - non-profit organization.

Our primary goals are to provide scholarships to local students, promote the interests of WVU, and to encourage closer contact and better understanding between the university and its graduates and former students and friends.

## SCHOLARSHIP



Founded in 2010, the Greater Cincinnati Dayton Chapter Scholarship Fund has grown to \$79K; It is endowed into perpetuity. Currently, three students are recognized annually.

## STUDENTS

Over 200 students attend WVU from our region – Ohio resident directly admitted to approved majors may qualify for in-state tuition.



## ALUMNI



~1,650 Alumni reside within our region with significant concentration in Hamilton, Warren, Clermont, Butler and Montgomery County. Ohio – 1.5K, Kentucky – 173, and Indiana – 16.

## WVU vs UC, A Rivalry Renewed



With the University of Cincinnati Bearcats joining the BIG12 this past year, there will be once again be many opportunities for the Chapter to watch WVU sports locally and in person when the various Mountaineer teams come to town. For those who lived in town when both schools were in the BIG EAST,, it will surely conjure great memories of football games, basketball games, pregame tailgates, and Mountaineer Nation taking over downtown Cincinnati and Clifton. **WE PLAN ON DOING IT AGAIN**, so stay tuned to our various social media sites for updates as we enter this exciting new era for both WVU and our Chapter.



CINCINNATI/DAYTON CHAPTER

WVU ALUMNI

CINCINNATI/DAYTON, OH

## Mountaineer Memories



When I was asked to write this article, I thought it would be easy. What I thought would make this easy is what actually makes it hard. I have countless Mountaineer memories that I would like to share, some maybe not appropriate for this newsletter so I'll save those for the next time we have a beer. A lot of my memories are synonymous with sports as we had some amazing teams to cheer for in the 2000s including Pat White & Co., Beilein's Bombers, the Geno & Tavon Show, and Press Virginia. But the ones that aren't I cherish more.

I met some of my closest friends during my time in Morgantown. The memories I have with them tailgating in the blue lot, climbing at Cooper's Rock on the weekends, meeting at Kegler's on Monday's for wings, hiking from Sunnyside to Evansdale just for a slice from Pizza Al's, and all of the shenanigans in between played an important factor in my life. This same group of friends still meet up at least once a year to make new memories and reminisce on some old ones. 10+ years after graduating from WVU one or more of these friends has been the best man in my wedding, become the godfather to my son, made me the godfather to his daughter, and continue to never miss each other's big moments in life. Though we all live hundreds of miles away from Morgantown and each other, the bond we created during our time at WVU is still strong. These friends are more so family now and are recognized as such by both my wife (Kara) and son (Trip).

Recently we met one of my friends and his family in Morgantown. This was the first time that both of our sons had been on campus. Even though our sons are toddlers and had no idea what we were doing, we still walked around campus and High Street pointing out places attached to our favorite memories. We spent time playing at Woodburn Circle and for a moment I reflected how far we all had come over the years and how important we all were towards each other's successes. I really hope Trip gets to experience a similar or even better journey. Though there's no guarantee that he grows up to be a Mountaineer like his old man, I'm confident the Mountaineer spirit will be engrained in him. He lights up when he hears Country Roads, loves pepperoni rolls, and points out the flying WV whenever he sees it. I can't wait to see what the future holds for him but regardless I take heart knowing all those who have his back in my extended Mountaineer family.

Montani Semper Liberi. Tom Taylor Class of 2014.

## 2023 Football Watch Parties





CINCINNATI/DAYTON CHAPTER

**WVU ALUMNI**

CINCINNATI/DAYTON, OH

<u>Upcoming Key Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 10 <sup>th</sup> MBB vs Texas	3:00	TBD
February 17 <sup>th</sup> MBB vs Baylor	6:00	TBD
March 8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner (W. Baker)	6:00	Fire House Grill Blue Ash
March 9 <sup>th</sup> WVU / UC Pre-Game	11:00	TBD
March 9 <sup>th</sup> WVU vs UC <i>Use Promo Code: <b>WVUALUM</b> on the UC Ticket site</i>	2:00	Fifth-Third Arena
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> WVU vs UC Baseball	5:00	UC BB Stadium
May 4 <sup>th</sup> WVU vs UC Baseball	3:00	UC BB Stadium
May 5 <sup>th</sup> WVU vs UC Baseball	1:00	UC BB Stadium



*We are planning to attend some of these games in person  
Tickets will be available via the UC website – General Admission*



August 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapter Picnic TBD Sharon Woods

*More Detail in our Spring Newsletter and on our Facebook page*

Fall 2024. Game Watch Parties TBD TBD

*We are working on a permanent location and will make an announcement in later in the summer*



Nov, 7/8/9 WVU vs Cincinnati Football Game in Cincinnati

*Depending on the game date & time, we are likely planning happy hours, tailgating, and post-game events. Events will be announced in the summer of '24 when game time/date are announced*

*Please check our Facebook Group or Community page for updates/additions/cancellations to events*



<https://countryroadstrust.com>

**“100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO ATHLETES**

Country Roads Trust is an exclusive member-driven marketplace that provides one-of-a-kind benefits to West Virginia fans and connects them to the program and players like never before through Name, Image, & Likeness (NIL) opportunities, allowing our student-athletes to monetize their individual and collective brands.”





CINCINNATI/DAYTON CHAPTER

WVU ALUMNI

CINCINNATI/DAYTON, OH

Justin Bond Vice-President '04 / '07 B.S. & M.S. Mktg	Neil Armstrong President '93 / '95 Finance / MBA	Jason Smith Scholarship / Emeritus '90 / '92 / '96 Civil Eng. / MS & Ph.D. Mech. Eng.
Susan Ridgeway Treasurer '97 / '99 Biology / M.S. Safety & Envir. Mang.		Matt Pauley Social Media '03 Graphic Design
Melanie Lomax Social Chair '81 / '82 Physical Ed & B.S. English M.S. Adolescent Motor Development	CINCINNATI/DAYTON CHAPTER <b>WVU ALUMNI</b> CINCINNATI/DAYTON, OH	Adrienne Bond Secretary '04 / '07 Political Science J.D. ( at Cincinnati)
Dylan Armstrong At-Large '19 Computer Science		Tom Taylor At-Large '14 Accounting

## Messages from the Board



First off, I would like to thank Jason Smith for his 16 years of dedication in serving as President of this Organization. His dedication and focus have left this organization in an incredible position, including growing our endowed scholarship fund to approximately \$80K. If you see Jason, please pass on your gratitude.

West Virginia is special. Even though I have lived in Cincinnati for the past 28 years, I am drawn into anything and everything WV. My children know that they are about to lose 10 minutes if their dad sees a Flying WV – my man cave looks like a museum for all things WV. I was asked to take on this role over the summer and couldn't be more excited to share my love of the state, the Mountaineers and especially the University. We have over 200 students attending WVU in our region and over 1,600 alumni and who knows how many "Friends of WV", and I love spreading the word about WV and connecting people to our common connection. Over the coming year, we are working on hosting many events and supporting our community. The university has blessed me in preparing me in my career and I look forward in repaying that debt over the coming years.

**Neil Armstrong, Wheeling, WV, President - Class of '93 / '95**

I have always been a fan of everything West Virginia. Growing up in Cross Lanes WV, attending WVU from 2000-2004, and then joining the local alumni group here in Cincinnati when I moved here almost 20 years ago, I am always representing!

My wife and two daughters travel back to West Virginia regularly to visit family and attend Mountaineer sporting events.

I hope to give back to the university through serving on the board, and staying engaged with local alumni, students and fans.

Let's Go Mountaineers!

**Justin Bond, Cross Lanes, WV, Vice-President - Class of '04 / '07**



I like to tell folks that I was born to be a Mountaineer. I think my family would tell you the same after making the trek to Morgantown from our slice of "Almost Heaven" called Elk River (Elkview, WV) for just about every home football game during my adolescent years. Now that I'm a lot older and a little wiser I want to give back to the Mountaineer community through mentoring and coaching current/future mountaineers. By engaging the future, young professionals of our chapter I hope to help sustain the service and fun our group offers for years to come.

"Montani Semper Liberi." Let's go!

**Tom Taylor | Elkview, WV | Member-at-large | Class of '14**



CINCINNATI/DAYTON CHAPTER

WVU ALUMNI

CINCINNATI/DAYTON, OH

WVU Alumni GCDC Inc.

Family Membership  
\$25.00



Scan to Pay

WVU Alumni GCDC Inc.

Donation to the  
Organization  
Custom Amount



Scan to Pay

WVU Alumni GCDC Inc.

Single Membership  
\$20.00



Scan to Pay

## Join Us / Volunteer

Please consider joining our organization for the small contribution of \$25 for a family or \$20 for a single membership. **Membership provides free access to our annual summer picnic and priority access to tickets should our organization obtain these for events. Additionally, throughout the year, drawings for WVU merchandise will be held for dues paying members.** Our organization is completely voluntary, and all contributions go to support our programs, acquire items for giveaways, and to support our long-term mission of growing our scholarship fund. Please click on one of the links above or visit our website for additional information.

[www.cincywvualumni.com](http://www.cincywvualumni.com)

Additionally with many events planned in the future with our March Basketball Game, Dinner with Wren, and Fall Football Activities, we need your help. Additionally, we are looking to host watch parties for all games next year and would love to have a few volunteers to be available to represent our organization in Cincinnati and potentially a satellite site in Dayton. Click on the link above and fill out the the information on the CONTACT US page.

## Social Media Links

Main Website



Chapter FB Page



Community Engagement



LinkedIn



X / Twitter



Instagram





CINCINNATI/DAYTON CHAPTER

WVU ALUMNI

CINCINNATI/DAYTON, OH

Market Value and Gift Value



## Greater Cincinnati | Dayton WVU Alumni Chapter Scholarship

For the past 24 years, the Cincinnati/Dayton WVU Alumni Chapter has provided at least one scholarship to local students who attend WVU. The scholarships is one of the ways our chapter gives back to our alma mater and to the local community. To date our chapter has given out over \$28,000 to help support local students.

Our endowment now provides \$3,000 annually (and is growing) each year into perpetuity for deserving students in our area to attend WVU. Our goal is to to continue to build our endowment so that additional scholarships can be offered. The current value of our scholarship fund is over \$79K and we have a near term goal to grow this to over \$100K in the next few years.

You can help make this goal possible by making a tax-deductible contribution directly to our fund via the the WVU Foundation’s website - [www.wvuf.org](http://www.wvuf.org) - or by mail using the order form below. When completing the online donation form, please select the “Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Chapter WVU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund #3Z308 in the drop-down menu on the website

We like to thank those who contributed between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 to our Scholarship fund. We, and future Mountaineers would like to thank the following donors for their generous support: Rodney Raines, Howard Witherow, Fredrick Lucas, Deborah Felzien, Jason Smith, David Sherrard, and Beth Witherow.

### Support the Cincinnati / Dayton Chapter Scholarship Fund #3Z308 with a Tax-Deductible Gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate amount contributed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: West Virginia University Foundation Inc.

Mailing Address: One Waterfront Place  
P.O. Box 1650  
Morgantown, WV 26057-9939

Specify “Greater Cincinnati/Dayton Chapter WVU Alumni Association Scholarship 3Z308” on the check memo line

