

Parent Electronic News  
West Virginia University  
October 6, 2016

It is official. Fall Family Weekend is here and the banner to prove it went up on the Mountainlair today to welcome all Mountaineer Families to campus! Check out the information on events that you can participate in throughout the weekend under *Parents Club Updates*.

This point in the semester is midsemester, meaning midterm exams – and if things aren't going well, midterm grades. See the section below on *Midterms and Academics* and be sure to use this weekend to check in with your student about their semester progress so far. *The Week Ahead* brings more career fairs, Diversity Week and some undergraduate research opportunities. A few key *Reminders and Updates* highlight the deadline for December graduation applications (Friday, October 7), discount football tickets for Parents Club members and spring student insurance waiver info. We look forward to seeing you all this weekend. Have safe travels down our country roads! In this edition:

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## **PARENTS CLUB UPDATES**

### **Top Ten Reasons to Come to Fall Family Weekend**

As you head to town for Fall Family Weekend, remember that the ultimate goal is to enjoy time with your student! There are a host of off-the-beaten-path places you can check out, such as our **WVU Art Museum and brand-new Sculpture Garden**, or even take your student to the Library (it is a good idea to make sure they know where it is!). While there, check out our **collections of memorabilia from Senator John P. Rockefeller IV and basketball legend, Jerry West**. Also, have you and your student taken the chance to read the WVU Campus Read, “Just Mercy?” Learn more or join the conversation at the **Campus Read Panel Discussion** before or after you drop by the Friday Welcome Reception. The Campus Read panel will be on Friday (October 7) at 5:30 p.m. in the Gladys G. Davis Theater in the Creative Arts Center. What other reasons should you visit?

**#10 Enjoy the great state of West Virginia’s natural beauty!** You can't find a better place to see the leaves changing colors and enjoy the crisp fall air. Stop by Coopers Rock State Forest, located 13 miles east of Morgantown on I-68.

**#9 Get a family photo taken – Mountaineer style!** Check out at the Welcome Reception on Friday and during check-in times on Saturday come visit our photo booth.

**#8 Enjoy a WVU men’s soccer game and a women’s volleyball game** while on campus. Let’s Go Mountaineers!

**#7 Get a head start on filling out this year's FAFSA** at our “Get Free Help on Your 2017-18 FAFSA” event. The form became available on October 1, and Financial Aid professionals will be on hand to assist you. Even if you haven’t preregistered you are welcome to stop by.

**#6 See you your favorite stars in one place! Go to the Greatest Live Tribute Show!** See Prince, Cher, Elton John, Aretha Franklin, The Blues Brothers and Bruce Springsteen! Friday and Saturday night at the Creative Arts Center.

**#5 Take the opportunity to visit the WVU Student Recreation Center** and enjoy all the amenities. Swim, play basketball, work out, walk the track – so much to do!

#4 Check out **WVUP All Night and Mountaineer Idol!** See what all the buzz is about.

#3 **“Students First: Safety and Well-Being” panel discussion.** Students and their families are invited to a panel discussion on Saturday, October 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. This discussion will be led by President Gee. Don't miss it.

#2 **Eat breakfast with President Gee!** How about Pancakes, Parents and the President? Seats are still available for this event on Sunday, October 9 at 8:15 a.m. To register, follow this link <http://bit.ly/2dsVVVW>.

#1 **Make memories with your student!** Meet your student's friends, spend precious time and make memories with your son or daughter. Whether over laundry or lunch at their favorite place in town, be sure to spend some quality time with your students and stock up on hugs.

To see a complete schedule for Fall Family Weekend, go to <http://bit.ly/2doUin6>.

### **Collegiate Recovery Program Open House, October 8**

WVU welcomes students and families of those in recovery to drop by the New Collegiate Recovery Program Open House on Saturday, October 8 from 9-10:30 a.m. The director of WVU Collegiate Recovery, Cathy Yura, helped launch the recovery program in February of this year, and soon, the new location — a spacious townhouse on the Evansdale campus – will offer students in recovery a place to gather, study, socialize, meditate and find a recovery community at WVU. Among other things, Yura hopes to host a series of sober tailgates for students who want to celebrate a Mountaineer football game without the added stress of avoiding alcohol. The first one will be held for the October 22 matchup against TCU. For more information or to help us connect with your student in recovery, contact Cathy Yura at 304-293-2547 or [Cathy.Yura@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Cathy.Yura@mail.wvu.edu). For more on the program, check out these articles on the Collegiate Recovery Program: <http://bit.ly/2dTeDBN> and <http://bit.ly/2dypIIG>.

### **October Bookstore Updates**

As you head to town for Fall Family Weekend or as you and your student prep for the change of seasons or upcoming holidays with the latest WVU apparel, the **WVU Bookstore** has many sales and events coming up!

**Fall Family Weekend and Open House - Saturday, October 8 and Saturday, October 15 – get 25% OFF\* one item** in store only when you sign up to receive emails from our new online destination for spirit gear: <http://bit.ly/2dtACRB>. See a bookseller for details.

**Visiting campus for a football game?** Check out the new Evansdale Crossing Bookstore complete with Starbucks Café! A short 15-minute walk to the stadium.

**Tuesday, October 18 - Thursday, October 20 – Start your holiday shopping with 25% off all fleece\***. Available in store and online at <http://bit.ly/2dtACRB>.

The WVU Bookstore is here to help you through your student's journey, in the classroom and on campus. For emails that include everything you need to know about textbooks, supplies and more, sign up at <http://bit.ly/2dTdla4>. Shop with confidence and trust as the WVU Bookstores are proud to give \$1.5 million each year to West Virginia University in the form of non-athletic student scholarships.

*\* Sorry, discounts cannot be combined.*

## **MIDTERMS AND ACADEMICS**

### **Midsemester Resources Available**

The halfway point of the semester (midterms) is right around the corner. This timeframe is a critical point for student success. It can also be a stressful time for your students as it tends to be when exams take place as well as deadlines for projects and papers. Please remind your student of the various support services available:

- free tutoring, student success coaches and other assistance: <http://bit.ly/1tW42GN>.
- Instructors' office hours are listed on every course syllabus.
- In the residence halls, students have a wealth of resources including Residence Hall Coordinators and Resident Assistants (RAs).
- WELLWVU (<http://bit.ly/1prNoiE>) is the students' center of health offering counseling and health education focusing on the complete well-being of our students.
- Career Services helps student build a four-year plan to launching a successful career and can help students considering a change or exploration of another major.
- Accessibility Services enhances the educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

Please encourage your student to seek the help we provide, if needed. You can also check out many of these services during the Fall Family Weekend Welcome Reception from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 7.

### **Midterm Grades**

Please note faculty will be reporting grades of a "D" or an "F" by Wednesday, October 12. Students, as well as parents with Parent/Guest Portal access, can view these midsemester grades online at that time. If your student is struggling in a class, please encourage them to speak to the instructor during office hours as well as seek out the resources noted above. If your student is considering withdrawing from a course, please encourage them to talk with an advisor before

doing so. In order to maintain full-time undergraduate status, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours. To graduate in a timely manner, students need complete at least 15 credits per semester. Dropping courses can also impact financial aid's satisfactory academic progress requirements: <http://bit.ly/2cTjISU>. The last day to drop individual classes is Wednesday, October 26.

Students also have the option to enroll in midsemester courses; courses that begin this month (many begin October 10) and typically run until the end of the semester. Students should visit <http://bit.ly/1EcgSa5> as well as speak to their advisor to explore available midsemester course options. There are many resources available to help students refocus and get back on track. Remind your student to reach out.

### **GPA Calculation, Scholarship Renewal and Academic Goals**

When making plans, students may want to know how to compute their GPA. DegreeWorks offers a variety of helpful GPA calculation tools (Graduation, Term, Advice or GPA Calculators) to help. More on these can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2e3aFtk>.

Renewal criteria for scholarships should also be on your student's horizon, while there is still time in the semester to make changes. A renewable scholarship probably has specific criteria, if it is a multiyear award. Be sure your student explores these criteria now. More info can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1AMXYZ9>.

Finally, this is a great time to look ahead or revisit academic goals. Latin Honors are awarded at graduation based on the following criteria: <http://bit.ly/2dtB6av>. Students can strive to achieve the President's or Dean's list each semester. This honor is noted on their official transcript each term: <http://bit.ly/1FTPCII>. Set those sights high!

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

### **Diversity Week, October 9-14**

Diversity Week is an annual weeklong event sponsored by the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Events provide opportunities for individuals to come together in unity to celebrate the rich diversity of our University community. For a full schedule: <http://bit.ly/1rwAEJ5>.

### **Introduction to Undergraduate Research Networking Event, October 10**

Does your student want to get involved in research but doesn't know how? Encourage them to attend the Intro to Undergraduate Research networking event on October 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Blue/Gold Rooms, Towers. At this event, attendees will speak with current undergraduates and faculty members and learn about undergraduate research opportunities. All attendees should sign up to attend by 3 p.m., Friday, October 7 here: <http://bit.ly/2dwcOLQ>.

## **Career Fair Bootcamp, October 10-11**

Preparation is key to career fair success – so, we added a two-day Boot Camp before the upcoming Davis Career Fair (below.) Students can take their career fair and networking skills to the next level by participating in Career Fair Bootcamp on October 10 and 11. Activities include professional headshots, elevator pitches, resume assistance, mock interviews and more. Click here to view the complete Boot Camp schedule: <http://bit.ly/2d4bDnv>. Please contact Rachael Conrad, employer relations specialist, with questions: [Rachael.Conrad@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Rachael.Conrad@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-293-8215.

## **Davis College Career Fair Recruiting Interns and Full-Time Employees, October 12**

The Davis College Career and Internship Fair will be held on October 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the New Agricultural Sciences Building. Over 40 employers from diverse industries, government agencies and nonprofits will be recruiting for internships and full-time opportunities. Details about participating employers can be found in MountaineerTRAK: <http://bit.ly/2dTeHBw>. While Career Week events are geared toward Davis College majors, all WVU students are welcome to attend. For tips on how to work a career fair, visit: <http://bit.ly/2cTzhnC>.

## **REMINDERS AND UPDATES**

### **Deadline to Apply for December Graduation, October 7**

As a final reminder, for seniors wishing to graduate in December, the last day to apply for December graduation is this Friday, October 7. <http://bit.ly/1xlqTgR>

### **Graduation Regalia, Diploma Frames, etc.**

For December 2016 graduates, all caps and gowns, personalized announcements, diploma frames and college rings can be ordered through the WVU Bookstore or online at <http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ>. All cap and gown and frame orders need to be ordered by November 11 and can be picked up in the Bookstore starting Monday, December 5. The cap and gown can be shipped to the student's home for a \$15.95 fee. The home ship orders must be placed by November 18. There is no shipping fee on caps and gowns and diploma frames that are shipped to the Bookstore for pickup. Some of these packages provide some great gift opportunities for your soon-to-be graduate, so check them out! Details for May graduates will be forthcoming in the spring semester.

### **Student Life Announcement**

Vice President of Student Life Bill Schafer has announced he will be stepping down, effective January 2, 2017. He will be pursuing other strategic opportunities within higher education. Corey Farris, who currently serves as dean of students and associate vice president of Student Life, will lead the Division of Student Life, effective immediately. <http://bit.ly/2dtBFkn>

## **Spring 2017 Student Insurance Waiver Available October 24**

Did your student miss the insurance waiver deadline for the fall semester? Will your student be a new student beginning in spring 2017? If your student does not have an approved student insurance waiver on file for the 2016-2017 academic year and already has adequate health insurance, you may opt out of the Aetna student health insurance plan for the spring term by completing the online student health insurance waiver application when it opens.

The deadline to complete the waiver is **December 16, 2016**. Eligible students who do not have an approved waiver on file for the 2016-2017 academic year by the December 16 deadline will be automatically enrolled in the Aetna student health insurance plan at a cost of \$791 per semester, assessed to the student account.

Visit the Student Insurance Office website at <http://bit.ly/119XdfW> to complete the waiver application when it opens on October 24, or for additional info about the student health insurance requirement and the Aetna student health insurance plan. **Please note, if your student has an approved waiver on file for fall 2016, they have opted out of the Aetna plan for the entire 2016-2017 academic year and DO NOT need to complete the spring waiver.** Contact [sio@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:sio@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-293-6815 with questions.

## **Parents Club and Athletics Offer Discounted Tickets**

As a reminder, discounted tickets remain through the special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for WVU's Big 12 Conference matchups with Kansas on Saturday, November 5 and Baylor on Saturday, December 3. By following this link <http://bit.ly/2bR005I> and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS, members will receive a \$10 discount off of tickets and be able to purchase Kansas tickets for just \$45 each and Baylor tickets for \$55 each. While students can receive football tickets for free to each game, their tickets are good for the student section only. If you'd like your student to sit with you, you will need to purchase a ticket for them. Contact the WVU Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME or <http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i> for info.

**/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman**

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University