

Parent Electronic News  
West Virginia University  
May 12, 2016

Although most of your students are now home for the summer, this time in Morgantown is special. Amidst the bustle getting ready for commencement, our soon-to-be graduates have been donning their caps and gowns and strolling through campus this week. As they reminisce and grab that one last photo with the Mountaineer statue or Woodburn Hall, it is a time of celebration and a culmination of much effort and hard work. Before students left campus, President Gee took to the Mountainlair to chat with them about their graduation bucket list items in his latest Gee-Mail: <http://bit.ly/1Wtqrgr>. As we prepare to send off the Class of 2016, some last-minute reminders and highlights of graduation are included below.

In our April Question of the Month, we asked about your students' plans for summer. Check out the responses below. As we head into New Student Orientation and prepare to welcome the newest group of Mountaineers and their parents in June, please take a quick moment to answer the May Question of the Month: "*What is the one thing you wish you had known as the parent of an incoming student?*" We will be using and sharing your responses throughout the summer: <http://bit.ly/1X53fE9>!

Finally, below you will find some summer reminders and spring wrap-ups, including info on spring grades. Note that the spring 2016 Dean's and President's Lists, as well as the Graduation List, will be forthcoming. You can check back here in the coming month: <http://bit.ly/119WRG9>. We will be sending one more Parent E-newsletter in May before the Parent E-news takes a summer break of its own. All the best to our graduates and their families this weekend! In this edition:

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## **GRADUATION**

### **Meet the Grads**

Starting tomorrow and continuing through Sunday, the Class of 2016 will take their walks across the stage as part of the May 2016 Commencement ceremonies. With nearly 4,500 students headed to the ranks of WVU alumni, the backgrounds, stories and futures are varied and impressive. Two of these graduates include Stephen Scott and Clara Beth Novotny, who are featured in our Meet the Grads series: <http://bit.ly/1VUZh1T>.

Some additional highlight and details for the weekend can be found here: <http://bit.ly/221YVqh>. Also, live webcasts of all ceremonies can be viewed here online <http://bit.ly/1TaaKdn>. Congrats to the Class of 2016!

### **WVU alumni have free access to the Career Services Center**

Graduation Week is bittersweet – there is anxiety about leaving the place students called their second home for four years (or maybe a little more) but also hope and excitement for life’s next adventure. If your son or daughter has not completely decided on their next step, including looking for full-time employment or weighing the option of graduate school, the WVU Career Services Center is here to help.

All alumni have free access to the full range of programs and services offered through the Career Services Center, such as career counseling and personalized job search strategies, resume and cover letter reviews, mock interviews (in person, Skype, or phone) and career fairs. Alumni also maintain access to their MountaineerTRAK accounts, where over 4,000 full-time jobs are posted annually: <http://bit.ly/1Om7EBc>.

So, whether your student will graduate this weekend or graduated a few semesters ago and is looking to upgrade their current employment status, send them to us! For more information and resources on launching a successful job search, contact us today: 304-293-2221 / [careerservices@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:careerservices@mail.wvu.edu) / [careerservices.wvu.edu](http://careerservices.wvu.edu) / 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Monday – Friday.

## **SPRING WRAP-UP**

### **Spring grades are out**

Final grades for the spring 2016 term are now posted on students' STAR accounts. Students can share their grades with parents through the parent/guest portal: <http://bit.ly/1I9XiAm>. Students with questions regarding a grade can reference the University Catalog grading policy or contact their instructor: <http://bit.ly/1GBp3jz>. Appeal guidelines are noted in the University Catalog: <http://bit.ly/1HJ2iM3>. Again, students can also take this opportunity to log on to DegreeWorks to see how their progress this term assists them on their road to graduation or play around with how changing their major might impact this progress: <http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO>.

### **WVU Barnes & Noble Bookstore rental returns**

Students with rental books that have not been returned to our stores have now been charged. HOWEVER, the WVU Bookstores will gladly accept books back to our stores if students can either come in and drop them off, or send them via UPS. Students should include the following information with their rental book shipment: Student name, phone #, email and the ISBN numbers of the books (shown above barcode on back of the book). Books can be sent to: WVU Bookstore, 1550 University Ave., Mountainlair, Morgantown, WV 26506-6357. For more on rentals: <http://bit.ly/1s2T2wa>.

### **April Parents Club Question of the Month responses**

Before your students headed home for summer break, we asked you "What plans does your student have for the summer?" Not surprisingly, getting a job topped the list at 64%, with co-ops, internships and other career-related work coming in second at 27%. Some will remain engaged in classes with summer school as the third option at 22%. Military service and basic training obligations, summer camps, various travel opportunities and resting and relaxing with family and friends rounded out the list. One parent also noted that "cleaning her bedroom!" was high on their list. Thanks again for your responses, and we hope our students have a wonderful summer break!

Again, please take a quick moment to answer the May Question of the Month: "*What is the one thing you wish you had known as the parent of an incoming student?*" We will be using and sharing your responses throughout the summer so let us hear from you: <http://bit.ly/1X53fE9>!

## **REMINDERS**

### **Has your student already registered for fall classes?**

**They should do so before June 1** – For parents of current students, now that your students are home for summer break, before they get too settled in, be sure they are all set for the fall semester. If your student has not yet registered for fall classes, New Student Orientation starts

June 1 and incoming freshmen will begin registering for classes. If your student has a hold that is preventing them from registering they can check their holds online in their STAR account and call the relevant office today to see how these can be resolved. Continuing students are encouraged to complete their fall class registration well in advance of the fall term.

### **Thinking ahead for fall bills**

**Bills post online July 5; Due July 27** – WVU's Office of Student Accounts wants to remind students and their families that it is never too early to be thinking about how to pay for education costs. For students registered for fall classes, WVU fall bills will become available to students through the WVU Portal (<http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR>) and in STAR (<http://bit.ly/27hP4jX>) on July 5. Payment is due in *full* by July 27.

If a student has registered for fall classes but does not plan to return, it is their responsibility to drop their classes or be held accountable for tuition charges. Students should monitor their MIX e-mail throughout the summer for important notices.

While fall tuition has not been finalized, you can estimate fall 2016 undergraduate tuition by visiting the Admissions Cost of Attendance Estimator: <http://bit.ly/1rIxFjZ>. If you are looking for a monthly payment option, consider signing up for the Tuition Payment Plan: <http://bit.ly/1AwwiiO>. It is an interest-free plan that will allow you to spread your charges into more manageable payments. You can enroll in the Tuition Payment Plan now for the 2016-17 academic year. The sooner you enroll, the smaller your monthly payments will be since you have longer to spread out your payments. If you have any questions on the Tuition Payment Plan, please call Higher One at 800-635-0120.

Another new offering to students beginning with fall 2016 is tuition refund insurance. Through GradGuard, families can protect their tuition investment if a student is unable to complete a semester due to a covered medical reason. For more info, visit GradGuard: <http://bit.ly/1OmaiXC> or give them a call at 888-541-4843. The deadline for enrolling is August 16, 2016, for the 2016-17 academic year.

For any questions on the WVU bill or payment options, please email the Office of Student Accounts at [OSA@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:OSA@mail.wvu.edu) or contact the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988.

### **AETNA Student Health Insurance updates**

**Students with insurance can complete the annual waiver starting June 6; it is due July 27** – While planning for the upcoming WVU Aetna student health insurance plan year, WVU was faced with significant increases in the WVU Aetna premium. The costs of medical services are increasing each year with the introduction of new technologies and new prescription drugs. The good news is that students are using these services more every year to feel better, to stay healthy, and to remain in school.

WVU is pleased to have negotiated plan design changes that have minimized the premium increase for the 2016-2017 plan year, while maintaining a high level of coverage for WVU students. Please review the plan changes below, which will be **effective August 10, 2016**. Keep this information in mind when considering your student's coverage options for the next academic year. Additional plan updates and changes will be listed in the 2016-2017 WVU Aetna Benefits summary, available at <http://bit.ly/119XdfW> beginning in July. Also available is a glossary of common insurance terms defined including terms such as copay, deductible, coinsurance and premium: <http://bit.ly/27hRgI7>.

	<b>Current WVU Aetna Plan</b>	<b>WVU Aetna Plan</b>
<b>Premium</b>	\$1,448 per year/\$724 per semester	\$1,500 per year/\$750 per semester
<b>Deductible</b>	\$0 In Network	\$400 In Network
<b>Office Visit Copay</b>	\$10 at WVU Medicine Providers/\$20 at Aetna Preferred Care Providers	\$10 at Aetna Preferred Care Providers
<b>Coinsurance</b>	Most services at WVU Medicine covered at 100%, most services at Aetna Preferred Care Providers covered at 80%	Most services at Aetna Preferred Care Providers covered at 80%
<b>Routine Care</b>	Covered at 100% In Network	Covered at 100% In Network

Again, this information is intended as an overview of upcoming plan changes only. Please review the 2016-2017 plan year summary available at <http://bit.ly/119XdfW> beginning in July for additional details. Contact the WVU Student Insurance Office at [sio@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:sio@mail.wvu.edu) or call 304-293-6815 with questions or concerns.

Again, students covered under another comparable health insurance policy can complete the annual waiver coming available June 6: <http://bit.ly/1fhCGKy>. This must be completed by July 27.

### **Residence hall opening and closing dates for 2016-17 now online**

Each summer we get questions as parents plan ahead for the upcoming year. The residence halls have released their official opening and closing dates for the 2016-17 school year. More specific details for fall move-in will be released and given out at New Student Orientation in June. Please note that the residence halls officially close during Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Breaks. Since parents often make the trip to pick up their students, please reference the dates and times, since some hall closings occur on Friday evenings: <http://bit.ly/1T9qHLB>

## **Blue and Gold Mine Sale Saturday, May 14**

Is your student working to outfit a new apartment in Morgantown? Well, this Saturday is their chance to pick up any items still needed. Due to football stadium renovations, this year's Blue and Gold Mine Sale will be held at the Hazel and J.W. Ruby Community Center in Mylan Park this Saturday, May 14, from 7 a.m. to noon. <http://bit.ly/1MHxKwW>

The sale raises funds for the United Way, and recycles tons of items left behind by students, keeping these items out of landfills. Last May, shoppers had the option to buy couches, clothing, lamps, kitchenware, decorative art, books, stuffed items and more. The sale's stock comes from students, who donate useable items for resale instead of throwing them away. Last year, hundreds of people were waiting when the gates opened at 7:00 a.m. for the early bird sale, so encourage students to come early! Items not sold are donated to other local charities.

**/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman**

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University