

Parent Electronic News  
West Virginia University  
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It is June on campus and Morgantown has been invaded by the 17-year cicada and the WVU Class of 2020 and their parents – we like the parents and students much more! It is amazing to think that the last time the cicadas emerged from the ground, however, our incoming freshmen were less than a year old. Curious what a cicada is: <http://bit.ly/20XYFYe>? As we (and the cicadas!) welcome new parents to the Mountaineer Parents Club daily at New Student Orientation, note that we will not be sending another Parent E-news until early July when all new MPC members are on board.

Here are a few reminders in the interim. Along with our official listing of Graduates, the Spring 2016 Dean's and President's Lists will soon be online. You can check back here in the coming week or two for those details: <http://bit.ly/119WRG9>. Please remind your students to be checking their MIX accounts frequently over the summer! There are a number of changes forthcoming to billing (fall bills come out July 5) and refunds and that will be messaged to students. I included some details on these and other reminders on items such as the annual Student Health Insurance waiver that will go live Monday, June 6 so you as parents are also aware. Also, below is info on how students can update their address, phone and emergency contact info in STAR – this is an important step since information changes over the school years.

To the parents of the WVU Class of 2016 – a hearty congratulations! Be sure to check out the *Commencement Sights and Sounds* video below. As your graduates move on, if you wish to now be removed from the Parent E-News listserv, please see the *Graduation Wrap Up* and *Housekeeping* sections for details.

Over the summer, if you have questions or if we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out: 1-800-988-0096 or [ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu). We are here and happy to help! In this edition:

#### GRADUATION WRAP UP

- Commencement Sights and Sounds
- Graduate Survey = \$500
- Bookstore offers Diploma Frames
- WVU Alumni Association

#### SUMMER NOTICES

- Update Addresses, Phone Numbers and Emergency Contacts
- Summer School Underway – students can still register!

- Mountaineer Parents Club Summer Send-offs
- Fall Student Insurance Waiver site to open this Monday, June 6 – Annual process
- Computer Purchases
- NEW: Transfer Academy – Encourage registration now

#### FALL BILLING

- Important Fall Billing Dates and Changes
- NEW: Not attending? Drop Classes to avoid charges
- NEW: Changes coming to Refund Process for all students

#### HOUSEKEEPING

- Removal from the Listserv and the Parents Club

### GRADUATION WRAP UP

#### Commencement Sights and Sounds

The pomp and circumstance of commencement weekend is now behind us and Mountaineer Nation has welcomed nearly 4500 new alumni! The following video and story collect some of the sights and sounds of the weekend of festivities: <http://bit.ly/1UmPsUi>. If you were able to join us for Commencement Weekend, please take a moment to provide feedback we can use to shape future events: <http://bit.ly/25CsmBn>.

#### Graduate Survey = \$500

Parents, we are interested to know where will your WVU graduate ‘Go First’? Now that your graduate has earned their degree and is stepping into what is certain to be a bright future, we want to know what’s next for them! If they have not already, (they can only complete this once) please encourage them to fill out a very brief survey to tell us. The survey takes about three minutes and as a thank you for their time, they will be entered into a drawing to win one of five \$500 cash prizes. That’s it – three minutes of their time for a chance to win \$500. The survey can be accessed until July 5, 2016 at: <http://bit.ly/1XXamiw>.

#### Bookstore offers Diploma Frames

Now that your students have that diploma they worked so hard for, check out the options for diploma frames so they can proudly display this for all to see! These make great gifts for upcoming holidays for your new Mountaineer professional. For more, go to: <http://bit.ly/1HuHUZG>.

## **WVU Alumni Association**

As our new graduates enter this new phase in their lives, they will no doubt want to also stay involved and engaged with WVU. If they are moving to a new town to start a career, chances are there are other WVU alumni close by! From Texas to Minnesota or Washington to Florida our alumni are 190,000 strong. As they make this transition, graduates are granted the first year's membership for free! After this, annual or lifetime memberships are available and also make great gifts! Our Alumni Association provides wonderful opportunities for students to connect and network with other alums throughout the country and world. Encourage your student to reach out today: <http://bit.ly/1esCOWT>.

## **SUMMER NOTICES**

### **Update Addresses, Phone Numbers and Emergency Contacts**

Has your student moved? Are you their Emergency Contact, and you have a new number? We encourage students to take this opportunity to log into STAR to update their addresses, phone numbers and emergency contacts. This is a quick, but important, process as information can change over the years. They can do so by logging into STAR <http://bit.ly/1r61Z74> and clicking under "Personal Information."

### **Summer School Underway – students can still register!**

Summer session is underway at WVU! Thousands of students have registered for classes so far this summer, and the number is expected to increase as more classes begin throughout the coming months. With classes starting at various times throughout the summer and running for a variety of times from 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 week courses, it is not too late for your student to enroll. If they need to get back on track after seeing spring grades, work to raise a GPA to retain a scholarship, or simply want to get ahead by getting a tough class out of the way, encourage them to check out summer offerings and register online. A number of classes are available online and can be completed from home or wherever else the summer months take them! If students will be in Morgantown, housing and dining options are also available for summer: <http://bit.ly/1KloSrZ>. For more on summer offerings, go to: <http://bit.ly/1yHNGni>.

### **Mountaineer Parents Club Summer Send-offs**

This summer be sure to see if there is a Mountaineer Parents Club Summer Send-Off in your hometown and make plans to attend! More send-offs are being added daily so be sure to check back throughout the summer months: <http://bit.ly/1PaIS1M>. These are great events designed for all WVU students and their families! A \$200 textbook gift card is given away at each one and a WVU representative will be in attendance to answer any questions you might have about WVU.

## **Fall Student Insurance Waiver site to open this Monday, June 6 – Annual process**

As a reminder, all domestic students enrolled in 6 or more credit hours and international students enrolled in 1 or more credit hours are required to carry health insurance coverage. Any student who is already covered by another health insurance plan that meets the requirements as noted here <http://bit.ly/1J3djGD> should complete the ANNUAL online insurance waiver application between June 6 and July 27 to opt out of the WVU-sponsored student health insurance plan. Those who do not opt out will be enrolled in the Aetna Student Health Insurance plan and charges will be posted to their student account. Be sure to check back to their page (noted above) on Monday to complete the waiver. Have a question for the Student Insurance Office? Call 304-293-6815 or e-mail [SIO@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:SIO@mail.wvu.edu).

## **Computer Purchases**

I often get calls from parents of incoming students this time of the year about what, if any, recommendations or suggestions WVU has for computers or software. You can find these and other helpful information including recommendations by schools and colleges (and even discounts!) through our Information Technology Services Computer Buying Guide: <http://bit.ly/1UmQqzT>. If you need additional assistance, you may contact the ITS Computer Repair and Assistance office by e-mailing [cra@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:cra@mail.wvu.edu) or calling 304-293-6201. Once students are on campus, walk-up support and technology assistance are also available: <http://bit.ly/289Gc0f>.

## **NEW: Transfer Academy – Encourage registration now**

Do you know a student who will be transferring to WVU this fall? Transfers should be contacting their academic advisors to register for fall classes this summer. They should also log on to register for the new Transfer Academy this fall. Here they will get their photo taken for their Mountaineer Card student ID and learn about student resources to help them get acclimated to campus: <http://bit.ly/1RTIQwj>.

## **FALL BILLING**

### **Important Fall Billing Dates and Changes**

July 5 – Fall 2016 bills will post to your student's STAR account. Students will be sent an e-mail notice to their MIX accounts to remind them.

July 27 – Bills are due in full (less authorized aid) or students must be enrolled in a monthly payment plan: <http://bit.ly/1ObxwPJ>\*

July 29 – 1.5% Late fee will be assessed to outstanding balances

As you plan ahead, if you would like to estimate what your student's cost of attendance, check out this planner: <http://bit.ly/1PspOlg>.

*\*As a convenience, WVU offers the option to make payments on a monthly basis through Higher One's Tuition Payment Plan. The TuitionPay Plan is an interest-free alternative to lump-sum payments, spreading charges into a more manageable monthly payment. TuitionPay Plans for the 2016-2017 academic year are currently available and the sooner you enroll, the smaller your monthly payments will be as you will have a longer time over which to spread your payments. Please visit this website for more information or to enroll: <http://bit.ly/1ObxwPJ>. If you have any questions on TuitionPay, please call Higher One at 800-635-0120.*

Questions? Call the Mountaineer HUB today to inquire and receive assistance: 304-293-1988 or e-mail [finaid@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:finaid@mail.wvu.edu) for financial aid and scholarship questions or [osa@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:osa@mail.wvu.edu) about billing and charges. Call today to avoid the last minute rush!

### **NEW: Not attending? Drop Classes to avoid charges**

If students have registered for fall classes, they are responsible for the cost of the seats they are occupying. Therefore, if they have had a change of plans and intend to not attend WVU this fall, they should withdraw online from their classes to avoid charges and make those seats available to other students as soon as possible: <http://bit.ly/1ZkK2O5>. They should also contact any other relevant offices to officially cancel their enrollment and avoid charges (Housing, Financial Aid, Honors, etc.)

### **NEW: Changes coming to Refund Process for all students**

Students who receive aid or payments in excess of their charges each semester may receive a refund: <http://bit.ly/1WzCXLv>. Effective the first of July, WVU will be using a new refund system. This change will require ALL students to submit (or resubmit for those who have previously done so) their banking information to receive an electronic refund. Students should monitor their MIX e-mail accounts in the coming weeks for information on this process which should arrive prior to July 1. To receive their fall refunds in a timely fashion, students should submit updated banking information in the new system prior to August 5. Supplying a bank account for refund deposit is the absolute fastest way to receive these funds. It could take up to two weeks to receive a refund via a paper check.

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

### **Removal from the Listserv and the Parents Club**

With the end of the year now past, for many of our parents it is time to say goodbye. Thank you for all you have done supporting your student during their time at WVU. As you move on to the next chapter of your life, many of you have become Mountaineers-at-heart and we value that bond with our WVU parents! While we welcome you to stay on with us for another year if you wish, we want to invite those of you who wish to relinquish your membership in the Mountaineer Parents Club that choice as well. To do so, simply reply to this e-mail with the following information:

Parent Name(s):

Student Name:

Other Comments/Farewell Messages/Etc. (We love to hear where your graduate is off to in this next stage of their life!):

If you would rather, you may also call the Mountaineer Parents Club Office directly at 304-293-2506. Again, thank you for all you do to support your student's success!

**/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman**

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University