

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
April 21, 2017

Next week is the last week of classes for the 2016-17 school year! Only a week and some successful final exams stand between freshmen becoming sophomores, sophomores – juniors, and juniors advancing to their senior year! Seniors now have graduation fully in sight and a few more activities have been planned for them from fun photo opportunities and a Mountaineer Send-Off noted below.

You can certainly see the growth of our students over the past year, and yet, today was quite the juxtaposition as we hosted our first group of new incoming students and their families for New Student Orientation, taking the first step in their Mountaineer journey. Along the way, we certainly recognize that the constant is you, the parents and family members. You send the reminders, coach and support them and together, celebrate their successes and help them through their challenges. For this we thank you!

To finish strong, a few last minute reminders follow including *residence hall closing details*, *dining plans for fall*, *students health insurance updates* and *bookstore reminders* well as some specific to parents of freshmen, incoming students and graduates, so read on and share! One final housekeeping note for all with **Verizon e-mail addresses**: As these accounts phase out in the coming week, don't forget to reply here to update us with your new e-mail address so we can stay in touch. We are almost to the finish line, folks! In this edition:

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UPCOMING EVENTS NEXT WEEK

12th Annual Week of Engagement – April 22-29

Do Good. Be Better. #GoFirst: Join the Center for Service and Learning in celebrating service and engagement at WVU as well as National Volunteer Week from April 22-29th. Events will be offered for the WVU community including service projects, workshops for community partners and student organizations, a special keynote talk from a WVU Alumni, and the annual Excellence in Engagement Awards. Visit <http://bit.ly/2oCGBH5> for more info, to view the master schedule, and to sign-up for events!

Fun Before Finals Events – April 24-28

From Coffee Bars to a PRT Block Party and free massages, starting next Monday through Friday, students should be sure to check out the Fun before Finals events taking place across campus! All events are free and open to all WVU students: <http://bit.ly/2pmL2JB>

Final Wellness Workshop – April 25

The final Wellness Workshop, Coping with Finals and the End of the Semester, offered by the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services will be held April 25 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in CPASS Room G06. Encourage your student to stop by: <http://bit.ly/2cQXqZ9>

Human150 – April 25

On Tuesday, April 25 at noon in Woodburn Circle, we'll be making a Human 150 to honor the 150th birthday of WVU. All students are invited to join us as the University Relations drone will be filming this fun event. Encourage your student to drop by and be part of the event!

<http://bit.ly/2oyosbV>

Mountaineer Talks – April 27

Love TED? Love WVU? The two have converged to form Mountaineer Talks as part of the WVU 150th birthday celebration featuring students and their impact. Encourage your students to check out the inaugural Mountaineer Talk, Thursday, April 27 at 4 pm in the Mountainlair Blue Ballroom. <http://bit.ly/2p0nAij>

Blue and Gold Mine Sale Collections Begin May 1, Sale May 13

While students begin packing up their living space, they may donate any unwanted household items to the Blue and Gold Mine Sale. Acceptable items include but are not limited to furniture, clothing, appliances, décor, sporting equipment and electronics. From May 1-10, students may drop off donations to any of the designated collection stations, including all WVU residence halls, Chateau Royale, at the top of Falling Run Road, the Seneca Center and Grant Avenue. This year's sale returns to the East Concourse of Milan Puskar Stadium on May 13, from 7 a.m. to noon: <http://bit.ly/1MHxKwW>. This event keeps about 30 tons of goods out of landfills annually, and all proceeds benefit WVU's campaign for the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties.

END-OF-YEAR INFO

Important Bookstore Reminders

Spring semester rental book returns – If your student rented textbooks this spring, the books are due back to the store from which they were originally rented by May 6. Since the due date coincides with the end of Finals Week, we simply tell students to visit the store before they pack up and leave for the summer.

Bookstore Buyback \$\$\$ – the best time for students to sell books to the WVU Bookstore is April 24-May 6. (WVU ID is required)

Graduating? - Pick up your cap & gown before May 12th. Pre-ordered sets will be at the store you chose. Didn't pre-order? No problem! Simply visit one of the WVU Bookstores to purchase through May 12.

25% Off T-shirt sale! – April 25, 26 and 27 (Tuesday-Thursday). Shop in our local stores or online <http://bit.ly/2p0CDsi> during the sale dates.

Storage units

Parents often ask about local storage facilities. There are many available, but they become more scarce during this time of the year. Our best advice to find what fits your needs (size, climate-controlled, location, price, etc.) is to do a broad search online for the Morgantown area. You can find contact info and take a look at reviews. The Office of Student Life also offers a list in their FAQ listing (but not an endorsement) that can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2odhPRc>. Does your student need a ride to move their items to storage? Then that Zipcars are available on campus; students can rent a car by the hour. <http://bit.ly/2pML9uT>.

Residence Halls Close May 6 at 5:00 p.m.

As a reminder, residence halls close Saturday, May 6 at 5 p.m.; students are expected to vacate the residence halls within 24 hours of their last exam or by May 6 at 5 p.m. (whichever comes first). Be sure to ask your student when his or her last final exam is for spring. The official finals schedule can be found at <http://bit.ly/1MZdalV>.

Students who anticipate difficulty in meeting the departure time due to academic reasons should contact their residence hall director no later than one week prior to the closing date to see if alternate arrangements can be made: <http://bit.ly/2p4S2tx>. Also, students have been given details on what to expect during move-out and official move-out procedures (room clean up, giving forwarding addresses, etc.)

Student Health and Health Insurance Reminders

Students who purchased the Aetna health insurance policy the spring term – even soon-to-be graduates – should note that their policy runs throughout the summer months until August 10: <http://bit.ly/1Ttei7q>. Also, WVU Medicine Student Health Service and the Mountaineer Pharmacy will remain open throughout the summer months and welcome students to stop in for their healthcare needs: <http://bit.ly/1I3YUHe>.

NEWS FOR THE GRADUATES

E-mail remains active for graduates

Upon graduating, students will lose access to the WVU Portal <http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH>, but NOT access to WVU email or data in STAR. Students should just use the direct links, E-mail: <http://bit.ly/2pNVIX7> and STAR: <http://bit.ly/2pMN56v>. For help, call the ITS Service Desk at 304-293-4444.

Graduation Ads – Deadline Extended to April 26

The WVU student-run newspaper, The DA, has heard from many folks and have a number of graduation ads submitted, but there is room for a few more! Due to the response and in order to make sure we give everyone an opportunity to still submit, we will continue to accept ads until Wednesday, April 26th. You can place a celebration ad in our graduation edition that will

commemorate the past four years and will be mailed to each senior and will be available on campus during graduation. We offer three sizes and will help design your special message to your senior. Please submit senior's name, message and pictures by April 26, 2017 to DA-Ads@mail.wvu.edu and contact Joanne Hunt @ 304-293-0083 for payment. Our promotional flyer with ad samples can be viewed at the following URL: <http://bit.ly/2mONuUV>

Photo op #1 – Commencement Head Shot – April 27

Calling all 2017 Graduates! The Student Alumni Association will be hosting free head shots around campus in honor of your commencement. Thursday, April 27 starting at 9:00 a.m. Our staff will be at Woodburn Circle from 9-11 a.m., then Evansdale Crossing from noon- 2 p.m., then finishing at the Erickson Alumni Center from 3-5 p.m. Follow us @GoldandBlueCrew for more updates! Keep in mind this is a first-come, first-serve basis. <http://bit.ly/2h8uzRI>

Mountaineer Send-Off for Graduates – May 9

The Mountaineer Send-Off is a celebration for the Class of 2017 and will be held at the Erickson Alumni Center, May 9th from 3-6 p.m. Seniors, Graduate or Doctoral students graduating in May are invited to attend. Featuring live entertainment from DJ Dollar, the Alumni Center will host several different activities and prizes will be raffled off throughout the event. Students can decorate their cap, pick up their Alumni Membership Card, find their local WVU chapter in their new home and of course, take their last selfie with President Gee as we do a Class of 2017 photo to commemorate their time at West Virginia University! For more information, visit the events page at <http://bit.ly/2h8uzRI>. Encourage your soon-to-be graduate to join us today!

Photo op #2 – Woodburn Circle Graduation Photos on May 10 – sign up today!

Our graduates are welcome to sign up to get a free keepsake photo of them at Woodburn! Sessions will take place Wednesday, May 10 from 1-4 p.m. There are limited spaces, so spaces will fill first-come, first-served. We're happy to take a photo of you in your WVU graduation cap and gown, WVU licensed gear or professional attire. Log on to fill out your name, email address and your preferred time slot in the form below. Plan to arrive during that hour-long timeslot for your photo. Photos will take approximately 3-5 minutes. You may include others in your photo (up to 10 people – so tell a friend!), but all participants must arrive before the scheduled time slot. <http://bit.ly/2pMLSfN> .

PARENTS OF CURRENT FRESHMEN

Give us your opinion!

As the parent of a college freshmen, your students are likely preparing to move out of the residence hall. We'd like to understand what is important to you regarding your student's housing choices after the residence halls. That's why we're inviting you to participate in an online discussion on the topic. Give us your opinion and we'll give you a \$10 Amazon Gift Card. You'll be entered in a drawing for a football or basketball signed by the Mountaineers. Just click on this survey link to find out more and see if you qualify: <http://bit.ly/2q0pXB6> .

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS

Choose Dining Plans NOW!

Welcome to WVU class of 2021! WVU Dining is already planning for your arrival next fall, developing new menu items, launching new dining locations, and planning new special events to give you the best campus dining experience possible. We're looking forward to meeting you in person at New Student Orientation!

One thing we need from you is your Dining Plan choice. WVU Dining offers four dining options for students living in WVU's Residence Halls. Here's a link specifically for incoming students that explains our dining plans and the sign-up process: <http://bit.ly/2ouYhnj>. If you have any questions, we are more than happy to help. You can reach us via phone at (304) 293-2096 ext.1 or email at dining@mail.wvu.edu. It is our joy and pleasure to serve you next year. Welcome to the Mountaineer family!

Adventure WV's Orientation Trips Registration Open

WVU's Adventure Orientation Trips are 5 and 6 day trips that prepare incoming WVU students for life at WVU. Trips offer participants diverse experiences and opportunities to learn about themselves, classmates, WVU and West Virginia. Due to generous subsidies from WVU, these programs are offered for only \$95 or FREE for students who are Pell Grant-eligible. The trips offer something for everyone; no previous outdoor experience is necessary and activities are designed for beginners. The trips include activities such as rock climbing, backpacking, and whitewater rafting, Habitat for Humanity home builds, a challenge course (high and low ropes course), and Service. Many programs, when combined with Fall coursework, come with 3 academic credits which meet the GEF 4 Graduation Requirement. Non-credit options are also available. Department-specific trips are available for students in Business & Economic, College of Creative Arts, Honors College, College of Media, College of Physical Activity & Sport Science, Engineering, Forensics, and Davis College. To learn more about Adventure WV Orientation trips, visit: <http://bit.ly/1xolaKv>. Registration is first come-first served: <http://bit.ly/1L589eb>.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR FALL

Fall Non-resident (off-campus) dining plans

If your student will be living off campus or in a University Apartment next year, they are not required to have a dining plan. That said, many choose to have a plan due to the convenience and the fact that they are likely still on campus for much of the day! If interested, students can check out and purchase what we call our nonresident dining plans found here: <http://bit.ly/2cc6Fqs>. These charges will show on their student account for the fall term once purchased and must be purchased a semester at a time.

Summer/Fall Parking options

The parking office began selling student permits on April 19th for the summer/fall academic sessions: <http://bit.ly/2oSzMmV>. Parents of incoming students – your student must first be registered for classes at WVU so they may inquire and purchase a permit after they register for classes at New Student Orientation.

AETNA Student Health Insurance updates

Students with insurance can complete the annual waiver starting June 5; it is due July 26. Staying healthy is an important part of your student’s time at WVU, and having adequate insurance coverage is part of maintaining their good health. As you know, WVU requires all domestic students taking six or more credits and all international students to have health insurance – either on an existing plan or through the WVU Aetna Student Insurance Plan.

Unfortunately, WVU has been faced with significant increases in the WVU Aetna premiums. The costs of medical services increase each year with the introduction of new technologies and prescription drugs. With the help of feedback from a survey of WVU students and parents, we have negotiated plan changes that have minimized the premium increase for 2017-18, while keeping a high level of coverage for you.

Please review the plan changes shown below. They will take effect on August 11, 2017, so keep this info in mind when considering your options. More updates and changes will be listed in the 2017-18 Aetna Benefits Summary available at <http://bit.ly/StudIns> beginning in July. If you’re not familiar with terms such as “copay,” “deductible,” “coinsurance,” and “premium,” you can look them up in a <http://bit.ly/27hRgI7>.

	Current WVU Aetna Plan	WVU Aetna Student Insurance Plan
Premium	\$1,582/year (\$791/semester)	\$1,800/year (\$900/semester)
Deductible	\$400 in-network	\$500 in-network
Office Visit Copay	\$10 at WVU Medicine Providers and Aetna Preferred Care Providers	\$25
Coinsurance	Most services at WVU Medicine Providers and Aetna Preferred Care Providers covered at 80%	No coinsurance
Routine Care	100% covered in-network	100% covered in-network routine care

This information is only an overview of upcoming changes. Please see the 2017-18 plan year summary at <http://bit.ly/StudIns> beginning in July for additional details. Please contact us at 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/1fhCGKv>. This must be completed by July 26.

Planning Ahead ... Important Dates

May 1 - 5 – Final Exam Week

May 6 – Residence Halls Close at 5:00 p.m.

May 12 - 14 – Commencement

May 15 – First Summer Session Begins

June 1-30 – New Student Orientation

June 5 – Student Insurance Waiver Site Opens <http://bit.ly/1fhCGKv>

July 6 – Fall Bills Out

July 26 – Fall Bills and Student Insurance Waivers Due

August 12 – On-Campus Move-in Day

August 16 – First Day of Classes

September 4 – Labor Day Recess

September 22-24 – Fall Family Weekend

All 2017-18 Housing Opening and Closing Dates: <http://bit.ly/2p4S2tx>

Full 2017-18 Academic Calendar: <http://bit.ly/2p0yYKR>

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University

Parent Helpline 1-800-988-0096

ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu

