

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
April 6, 2016

The countdowns have begun – Spring Family Weekend is just 9 days out! Be sure to read on for more on this and log on and register today: <http://bit.ly/1y4Fkv9>! Finals week is just 26 days away and residence halls will close 31 days from tomorrow. Perhaps a few seniors have their eyes set 37 days out for Commencement weekend! These and other helpful dates can be found on the *Upcoming Dates* section below as you plan ahead. With summer break approaching, it is still important to remember that there are still a little over three weeks of class left and goals such as Dean's (3.5 GPA+) or President's Lists (4.0 GPA) are still attainable so students need to stay focused!

Below you will also find financial aid award letter updates, a timeline on the 2016-17 student insurance opt-out waiver that opens in June, and some summer news and info that might be helpful to all. We have also highlighted other details relevant to specific groups of parents for quick reference.

Finally, we love to hear from you! Be sure to check out the feedback below from the March *Parents Club Question of the Month* about parent and student communication. Also be sure to answer our April question and let us know what plans your student has for the summer: <http://bit.ly/23bP8SO>. We'll be sure to share those responses in an upcoming Parent E-news as well. Summer break will be here before we know it!

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PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

Spring Family Weekend is right around the corner - April 15-17

Plan to come to campus, see your student and enjoy some great events! This is also a great time to help start moving some now unneeded items home as part of the move out process with the end of the semester just around the corner. Stop by the Welcome Reception at the WVU Visitors Center on Friday and enjoy music and free food. Families can pick up their name tags, special gifts, and coupons for free breakfast on Sunday too. On Saturday, join us for a special pre-game party at a WVU baseball game at the Monongalia County ballpark. There's still more to do - stroll down High Street for Chocolate Lovers Day, go to a men's soccer game, zip line through the University Forest, work out at the Rec Center, enjoy a show at the Planetarium, stop by the Pottery Sale at the College of Creative Arts, and go to WVUp All Night! Sunday morning, breakfast is on us at the dining facilities. Please complete the online registration form and make plans today to come to campus next month. Visit <http://bit.ly/1y4Fkv9> for the registration form and schedule. Also, families visiting any of our WVU Barnes and Nobel Bookstores between April 15th and 16th can receive 25% OFF any school spirit item! Download the WVU Bookstore app "My College Bookstore" available on iTunes and Google Play Store, and you can receive 25% OFF an additional, separate item. IN STORE ONLY. We look forward to seeing you all on campus!

Parents Club Question of the Month

We asked as our *Question of the Month* for March, "How do you and your student communicate most frequently?" Not surprisingly, an overwhelming majority (74%) indicated that text messages are now the main mode of communication with your student while away at college. That familiar voice on the other end of the line brought cell phone calls in second (17%). The 'other' field (8%), however, was perhaps the most telling. Responses here ranged from 'combination of texting and calling' to the latest and trendiest apps and social media platforms such as Facetime, Snapchat, and Zap Zap.

Interestingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, e-mail messages received no responses. Also no one mentioned the once-popular letter from home. Highlighting these trends, a Boston Globe article from last week reported that a college in Maine has made the announcement that they will no longer be assigning student mailboxes starting next fall: <http://bit.ly/1qrTWCf>. As the article states, “While the school’s package center is filled with online shopping orders and care packages, the mailboxes that were once an integral part of students’ connections to home and friends now sit — mostly — empty.” Again, a nod to changing times and technologies. Thanks for participating in the poll and be sure to answer the April Question of the Month: <http://bit.ly/23bP8SO>!

ALL PARENTS

Upcoming Dates:

Spring Family Weekend – April 15-17

Last day of Classes – April 29

Finals Week – May 2-6 (NOTE: Residence Hall students must vacate their residence hall within 24 hours of their last final to maintain a quiet environment for those who are still studying. More on Residence Hall move out will be included in the next Parent E-newsletter.)

Residence Halls Officially close for Spring 2015 – May 7 at 5 p.m.

Graduation Weekend – May 13-15

New Student Orientation – June 1-30

Fall 2016 Student Insurance Opt Out Waiver opens – June 6

Fall 2016 bills due – July 27

Last day to submit Fall 2016 Student Insurance Opt Out waiver – July 27

August dates including fall residence hall opening dates, welcome week, etc. will be forthcoming in an upcoming Parent E-Newsletters so be sure to stay tuned!

2016-17 Financial Aid Award Letters and Payment Options

It’s time for students to accept their aid for next year! Financial aid award letters are going out for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. If your student filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1, their financial aid award may already be on their STAR account. Students

can also view unsatisfied requirements through STAR that can delay the financial aid award. Info on how to access and review the aid offer can be found at <http://bit.ly/1PUauam>. Encourage your student to log on and accept that aid! If your student filed a FAFSA after March 1, award letters will be coming out soon.

Also, parents, if you think you anticipate the need to spread out payments for the Summer or the upcoming 2016-17 school year, payment plan options opened up start March 29. The earlier you enroll, the smaller monthly payments can be as you have more months to spread out your payments. More on these plans can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1ObxwPJ>. If you have questions on financial aid (finaid@mail.wvu.edu) or payment plans (OSA@mail.wvu.edu) you can e-mail or call the Mountaineer Hub direct 304-293-1988.

The Fall 2016 WVU Student Health Insurance Waiver will open June 6th to opt out

The annual student health insurance waiver for Fall 2016 will be available beginning June 6th at <http://bit.ly/119XdfW>. All domestic WVU students enrolled in 6 or more credit hours, and all international students enrolled in 1 or more credit hour must be covered by adequate health insurance as noted here: <http://bit.ly/1fhCGKv>. Students who are already covered by an adequate health insurance plan, as a dependent under a parent's plan or on their own, may opt out of the WVU Aetna plan by completing the insurance waiver application at the link above each academic year. The waiver application typically takes between 3-5 minutes to complete using information generally available on the student's health insurance ID card.

Eligible students without an approved waiver on file for the 2016-2017 academic year by the deadline of July 27th will be automatically enrolled in the WVU-sponsored Aetna plan at a cost of \$791 per semester, assessed to the student's account. The WVU Aetna plan offers excellent, nationwide coverage with low out-of-pocket costs. Additional information about the 2016-2017 WVU Aetna plan will be available at <http://bit.ly/119XdfW>, also beginning in June. Please contact the WVU Student Insurance Office at sio@mail.wvu.edu with questions about the student health insurance requirement, the waiver process, or the Aetna student health insurance plan.

Interested in Internships and Jobs? Come to a Pioneer Session – April 18

Is your student looking for an internship or job after graduation? Encourage them to visit the Alumni Association on April 18 at 9 a.m., as it kicks off its first professional development speaker series known as the Pioneer Sessions. The first session will feature a panel of career professionals as they discuss tips and best practices of "Building Your Network to Advance Your Career." Panelists include Mike Fulton (The Asher Agency, Washington D.C.), Eric Minor (Reed College of Media, WVU) and Frank Vitale (KeyLogic, Morgantown, WV). Pioneer Sessions will be held at the Erickson Alumni Center and will be broadcast live on Periscope @WVUAlumniAssoc. To attend, please register at <http://bit.ly/1Vx7mrS>. Free admission to all students!

2016-17 Campus Read Unveiled!

New this year, all WVU students as well as the entire WVU community – including you parents – are invited and encouraged to read and engage in upcoming activities and events around the 2016-17 campus Read – Bryan Stevenson’s award winning book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. If you are looking for a summer read, grab a copy today and then pass it along to your student and stay tuned for ways to engage in the conversation and discussion throughout the fall semester! For more on the Campus Read, go to: <http://bit.ly/1PUaTcQ> or <http://bit.ly/1S2sya2>!

Summer Schedule Now Online

As students are busy registering for their fall courses, they might also consider summer school. WVU offers a flexible course schedule in the summer with classes offered in 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 12-week increments. Summer is popular for those who want to focus on challenging classes, catch up in their major, or take GEFs. There are hundreds of online classes and many opportunities to travel both abroad and domestically. Students should talk to their advisors and use DegreeWorks to see how they can benefit from taking summer classes. Preregistration began March 29 but students can continue to add classes as space remains. For information, visit <http://bit.ly/1yHNGni>.

Summer Dining Plans

If your student is planning to stay in Morgantown this summer, WVU Dining can take care of all their hunger-related needs. Starting May 10th, students can sign up for a Summer Dining Plan! With three plans to choose from, a Summer Dining Plan can keep your student fed while they are in town with a variety of options:

The Summer 20: A block of 20 meals, with no daily limit of use. \$176.00.

The Summer 40: A block of 40 meals, with no daily limit of use. \$344.00.

The Summer 80: A block of 80 meals, with no daily limit of use. \$672.00.

Summer plans start May 16th and end August 5th, and the campus will be closed on Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1tWs6JP>, and to sign up, have your student visit <http://bit.ly/1rrdX5R>. Feel free to call us with any questions you have at 304.293.2096, or email us at dining@mail.wvu.edu

PARENTS OF GRADUATES

Gift Ideas? Help your student leave their legacy at WVU

Looking for a meaningful graduation gift for your soon to be WVU graduate? The West Virginia University Alumni Association is excited to offer graduates the opportunity to have their legacy set in stone at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center – a perfect location to showcase their Mountaineer pride. Parents, you can commemorate your student's graduation by purchasing a personally engraved brick or paver in their honor noting the student's name, graduation year, school or college, as well as Greek letters and other symbols that are available upon request. Limited bricks are available. Orders purchased by June 1st ensure placement by Homecoming 2016. Place your order online today: <http://bit.ly/1q6BmyP>. Lifetime Memberships are also available and a great way to assure your student stays connected to his or her alma mater for years to come: <http://bit.ly/1Mecnnv>. Questions? Contact the WVU Alumni Association at 304-293-4731. We are excited to soon welcome the Class of 2016 to our alumni ranks!

Cap & Gown Information

For students who pre-ordered their graduation items prior to the March 27th deadline for in-store pickup, these items will be available for pick up beginning on April 25th. The Bookstore will hold these for students through May 14th. If your student did not pre-order, caps and gowns, frames, and other graduation needs are now available for purchase at the WVU Bookstores during regular store hours or students can still place "Home Ship" orders for an additional shipping charge at <http://bit.ly/1WczaSW> through April 15th. Our WVU Barnes and Noble Bookstore staff are here and happy to help. Please email any questions to sm583@bncollege.com.

PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

ACCESS WVU Early College Program

Each semester, high school juniors and seniors have the opportunity to enroll in college courses completely online, on West Virginia University's main campus, or onsite in participating high schools through the ACCESS WVU Early College Program. The courses are offered to high school students throughout the country at a reduced tuition rate. As a result, students have the potential to begin their journey towards a college degree, at a reduced cost, all while having the support of our Student Success team. To find out more about the courses offered, program requirements, and how to apply, please visit <http://bit.ly/1qumsTC>.

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS

Math Placement details now online

For parents of incoming students, be sure your student has signed up for a New Student Orientation Session: <http://bit.ly/1bmgcFa>. WVU will be using a new Math Placement tool called ALEKS to help place students in the right math and chemistry classes and this test and prep modules can and should be taken prior to can be take . Also know that the math course selection tool is now live on the that site: <http://bit.ly/1REn1V1>. This tool allows students to select their major and based on this will populate the required math and/or chemistry course(s) for that major, and next steps regarding ALEKS. This tool will reinforce all of the content on the NSO site and math department site as well as the math letters. Feel free to share this with your students!

/ Katie Gallagher

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University